Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 276 | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you plan to have turkey this Thanksgiving?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

President Obama pardons two turkeys in an annual Thanksgiving rite.

➤ PAGE 18

WORLD

A cease-fire accord between Israel and the Hamas take effect.

➤ PAGE 20

LIFE & STYLE

Lindsay Lohan says it feels good to be back on the red carpet.

➤ PAGE 23

Taisacan named permanent Rota Health Center chief. PAGE 2
Upcoming Marines exercise on Tinian scaled down. PAGE 6

2-year parole extension OK'd

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Immediate relatives of US citizens: Best Thanksgiving gift
» Fitial administration remains wary about decision

Thanksgiving once again got more meaningful for hundreds of families in the CNMI after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday it will consider granting, on a case-by-case basis, extending the parole of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, not just for one year but for two years or up to 2014.

A two-year grant of parole extension would allow these individuals to maintain legal status in the CNMI.

"This is the best Thanksgiving gift one could ever hope for," Jocelyn Anastacio, 39, told *Saipan Tribune* upon hearing the news. Anastacio has two minor children born here—a 7-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter who have never known any home other than the CNMI.

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens that are residing in the CNMI with parole as of Nov. 25, 2012, will be able to apply with USCIS for extension of that parole.

Existing paroles of these immediate relatives are now set to expire on Dec. 31, 2012, with the exception of certain "stateless" individuals granted two-year paroles.

USCIS Director Alejandro N. May-

See PAROLE on Page 4

TINIAN WATERS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
A woman plunges into the blue Pacific water while two others contemplate their next move at Taga Beach, a popular Tinian beach that has a diving ledge where locals and tourists could show off their diving and swimming prowess. Tourism arrivals on Tinian, Rota and Saipan went up by 15 percent to 389,475 in September compared to the same month last year, the Marianas Visitors Authority said.

OIA's Babauta may be on his way out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» After being placed on admin leave over travel, grant probe

U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony M. Babauta, who has been placed on administrative leave, may be on his way out of the Obama administration, sources told *Saipan Tribune*. Other CNMI and Guam officials, however, said yesterday the Interior has not reached any conclusions yet.

Babauta

Delegates Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) said in separate statements to the media yesterday that the Interior's Office of Inspector General is currently investigating Babauta's conduct.

Sablan said: "While the Interior has not reached any conclusions, the assistant secretary has been placed on administrative leave to ensure the integrity of this ongoing investigation."

Babauta is currently the highest ranking native Pacific Islander serving in the U.S. government. He is the first person of Marianas/Micronesian descent appoint-

See BABAUTA on Page 4

THANKSGIVING MEAL CLARISSA V. DAVID
Ministry leader Annie Gillespie of the CNMI Salvation Army slices the cake as part of the Thanksgiving meal shared by about a hundred community members plus nearly 30 volunteers yesterday at the soup kitchen in Chalan Piao.

See related story on Page 5

Local

Taisacan named permanent Rota Health Center chief

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Health Center has a new resident director with the recent appointment of Sydie P. Taisacan, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Taisacan has been an employee at the center for many years and replaces Edward Maratita at the position.

Maratita's contract was recently not renewed, along with his then-counterpart at the Tinian Health Center, former director Freddy Hofschneider.

Babauta said Monday that he recently visited the Rota Health Center where he, along with Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez and corporation board vice chair Pete dela Cruz, received a comprehensive presentation from Taisacan, highlighting the current condition of the facility.

Among the issues Taisacan raised with corporation officials is the center's possible acquisition of its own hemodialysis machine so that Rota dialysis patients would not have to go to the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan, which results in significant expenses.

In fact, Babauta said, the Rota Health Center has already identified a site for the proposed dialysis room that will accommodate four hemodialysis machines.

This early, Babauta said the proposal is not feasible since the corporation lacks money. According to him, opening a hemodialysis room at the Rota center will cost the corporation $1.5 million to $2 million in yearly expenses. The expenditure covers the nonstop air-conditioned room, regular maintenance by technicians, and the constant monitoring and oversight of a nephrologist every week. The four hemodialysis machines, Babauta said, are not included in the projected expenditures because CHCC has machines that could be transferred to Rota.

Babauta said the corporation has to first identify the funds that will be used so that if they decide to go ahead with it, services will not be disrupted.

Taisacan also highlighted in her presentation the lack of a pharmacist at the center and asked for a periodic visit by a dentist and psychiatrist—services that are not currently being provided to Rota residents.

Corporation officials, along with Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, were also briefed by Taisacan about the current condition of many of the center's equipment, most of which need to be replaced or repaired.

See TAISACAN on Next Page

Defense chief Leon Panetta praises Tinian JROTC team

The Army JROTC academic team representing the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School and the CNMI Public School System were recently recognized by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta for their participation in the JROTC Leadership Symposium and Academic Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the Defense secretary recently sent the Public School System a letter to congratulate the CNMI Team for its participation in the program.

The JROTC Leadership Symposium and Academic Bowl Championship is sponsored by the Army JROTC and conducted by the College Options Foundation. The event is a nationally recognized academic and leadership competition exclusively for JROTC students.

Cadets who participate learn the values of citizenship and academic competition while increasing their SAT/ACT scores.

During Tuesday's Education Day celebration on Tinian, Sablan recognized the Tinian JROTC cadets and awarded them certificates of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Sablan said the DOD chief's recognition is unprecedented for PSS, which has been participating in the national event for some three to four years now. She admitted to being surprised upon receiving Panetta's letter.

According to her, the recognition from DOD is proof that CNMI students are very competitive, well-prepared, and shine in both academic and extra-curricular activities.

Along with Panetta's letter of recognition, PSS also received a commendation letter from the College Options Foundation.

"On behalf of the U.S. Army JROTC, we are thrilled to congratulate the Tinian High School Army JROTC Leadership Team for their participation in the 2011-2012 JROTC Leadership Symposium and Academic Bowl, which tool place in Washington June 2012. This is a monumental accomplishment," said Foundation president Terry Wilfong, describing the U.S. DOD letter as an extraordinary acknowledgment of the team's accomplishments.

The CNMI Army JROTC Leadership Team competed against thousands of teams from around the world to advance to the championship. There are 1,645 JROTC programs in the world. The CNMI team was one of 24 high school teams that competed in the event. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Autonomy of CNMI nursing board sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI nursing board should be re-established as an autonomous public agency to ensure its ability to function independently and more effectively, among other things, Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said.

Deleon Guerrero, in his House Bill 17-319, said it is also prudent to afford the board the power to re-appoint members to a second term if no other appointment appears after 90 days.

"This 90-day waiting period reinstates to the board powers as the Legislature originally envisioned without infringing upon the governor's appointment authority," the outgoing lawmaker from Precinct 5 said.

Right now, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners regulates the practice of nursing in the CNMI. It ensures that any person practicing or offering to practice nursing in the CNMI is properly licensed for the protection of the public's health, safety and welfare.

The board, as it is now, is created within the Department of Public Health, now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and is carrying out its duties as mandated.

Deleon Guerrero said it is necessary and reasonable to re-establish the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners as the NMI Board of Nursing, an autonomous public agency, along with expenditure authority over funds and provide the board with expenditure authority over its funds.

Outgoing House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) may call for a session next week, so that remaining bills that members deem "urgent" could be formally introduced or voted on.

TAISACAN

From Page 2

Among these is the center's lone X-ray machine, the need for a new digital machine and cassette film holder for the radiology unit, the out-of-order elevator, the non-functioning fire alarm system, a defective medical oxygen generator and emergency generator, among others.

Despite these concerns and challenges, Babauta said the Rota facility is still fortunate to have two full-time physicians: Drs. Francois Claassens and James Toskas.

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that the corporation is now working on having these defective equipment repaired.

The Rota Health Center has 43 staffers, including the two physicians, three registered nurses, four licensed practical nurses, and six nursing assistants.

Thai Massage
Ayurvedic
• $20.00-1hr • $25.00-1.5hrs • $30.00-2hrs
We have Certified Therapeutic Thai Massage from Mahidol University. Over 10 years experience!
Open Daily from 11am to 11pm • Tel: 233-2249
2nd Floor, Winchell's Bldg,. Garapan

i'm lovin' it
Holiday joy.
Now available in a cup.
McCafé Egg Nog Shake
The creamy taste of egg nog in a delectable shake. Topped with whipped cream and a cherry, it will keep you feeling festive all season long.
Treat yourself this season.
Holiday Mint McFlurry
Swirls of reduced fat soft serve vanilla ice cream blended with peppermint candy pieces and our signature mint syrup make this the perfect holiday treat.
McFLURRY
LOVE IT TO BITS!
McCafé
CHEDDAR BACON ONION
ALSO AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY
Premium Grilled Chicken CBO Sandwich
Premium Crispy Chicken CBO Sandwich
JUICY 100% ANGUS BEEF
Crispy hickory-smoked bacon, savory caramelized grilled onions, topped with two slices of melty white cheddar* and a creamy mustard sauce on a choice of either a tender premium chicken breast filet (crispy or grilled) or juicy 100% Angus beef.
*white cheddar pasteurized process.
STORE HOURS: Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30AM to 10:00PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 - Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com

BABAUTA

From Page 1

ed by a U.S. President, the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs website says.

His office has oversight over U.S. insular areas such as the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Sablan himself received a call yesterday from Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Eileen Sobeck, who has been designated acting Interior assistant secretary for insular affairs "until this entire matter is resolved, one way or another."

"And I offered her my support as she takes on this additional responsibility," Sablan said in a statement.

In an interview, Sablan said Sobeck assured him of the continued working relationship between the CNMI and OIA.

"I've been assured that whatever is on the table will continue to be worked on. She assured me of continued support to the CNMI. She will also consult with Mr. Nik Pula, who has institutional knowledge. There's going to be continuity," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sobeck has been visiting the CNMI for a number of years.

Bordallo, in a separate statement yesterday, said she is "aware of the ongoing Department of Interior Inspector General review of travel in the Office of Insular Affairs as well as the review of a specific grant that was awarded by the office."

She said the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee is aware of this ongoing process and of the allegations.

"There are not a lot of details right now and it would be inappropriate to comment on specific allegations until they have been fully reviewed and reported on by the IG. The Department of the Interior is following a well established process for IG reviews. I respect this process and look forward to receiving the full IG report when it is completed," Bordallo said.

Sablan and Bordallo also expressed their continued confidence in Babauta.

The CNMI delegate said in the past three years, he relied on Babauta's institutional knowledge that he brought with him to the Interior.

"He has been helpful to me, as the Northern Marianas representative to Congress, and also as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee [that] oversees insular affairs. While I wait for the investigation to be completed, I will continue to rely on the good people of the Office of Insular Affairs for their continuing support. And DAS Sobeck assured me that I will continue to receive that support," Sablan said in a statement.

Bordallo said that, as Guam's own, she has known Babauta for a long time.

"I have confidence in his integrity and in the work he has performed as the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. He has used his expertise on insular issues to fully engage leaders from across the Pacific and in the Caribbean. Our islands are better positioned because of his leadership. I believe that he has always exercised sound decision making and I hope this will be reflected in the IG results," Bordallo said.

Other sources said the investigation could be more than travel spending and procurement.

Babauta previously worked in the Guam Legislature, initially with Territorial Sen. Elizabeth Arriola and then with Bordallo, then senator and who, since 2003, has been the Guam delegate to Congress. In 1998, Babauta moved to Washington, D.C. to become a legislative assistant to Guam Delegate Robert Underwood, although he was hired the next year to serve as a professional staff member for the House Committee on Natural Resources, a position he held through 2006.

In 2007, Babauta became Majority Staff Director of the Committee's Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, which exercises oversight regarding the same island possessions for which Babauta now has administrative responsibility. He held that position through May 2009.

Babauta last visited the CNMI in late October to early November, along with OIA director Nik Pula, on a host of issues including an Interior-commissioned report that highlighted the CNMI's mounting cumulative deficit of over $300 million, OIA-funded utilities projects, and CHC.

President Barack Obama nominated Babauta in July 2009 and the U.S. Senate confirmed him in September 2009.

Babauta is a native of Guam but spent much of his early childhood in the U.S. mainland before his family relocated back to Guam in 1982.

LEADERSHIP CAUCUS

Incoming House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), left, shakes hands with representative-elect Tony Benavente, right, during a caucus of the coalition leadership on Navy Hill on Wednesday, wherein the 16-member supermajority chose the officers and chairmen of different committees for the 18th Legislature. They said they are "ready to impeach the governor," to fulfill the mandates by most voters in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PAROLE

From Page 1

orkas, in a Nov. 21 letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes Sablan's H.R. 1466, which would provide a path to lawful permanent residence for most individuals covered by this parole policy.

"As you note, that legislation remains pending, but we understand your concern that this group will not be able to remain in the CNMI lawfully after Dec. 31, 2012," Mayorkas told Sablan in a two-page letter. "USCIS may grant two-year extensions to individuals who have been granted parole under the current 'immediate relative' parole policy and who, based on a case-by-case review of their request for such extension, continue to warrant the favorable exercise of discretion."

Sablan's H.R. 1466 seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status for four groups of people, including immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who were on the islands as of May 8, 2008, and continuing to be on the islands.

Mayorkas said an extension will allow these individuals to lawfully remain in the CNMI, provided that they do not otherwise violate immigration laws, and to apply for extensions of employment (if previously granted) or an initial grant of employment authorization.

"We will continue to monitor processing times for employment authorizations to ensure timeliness," Mayorkas told Sablan.

Sablan said now that President Barack Obama has been re-elected and announced that immigration will be at the top of his agenda, it is not surprising that his policy for U.S. citizen families is going to be extended for another two years.

"This will provide more time for a legislative solution and I am looking forward to getting back to work on fixing problems created by the CNRA [Consolidated Natural Resources Act]," he said.

Not automatic

Parole extension is not automatic.

Requests to extend parole and required documents must be submitted before the expiration of the current parole.

Parolees authorized to work must apply separately for an extension of their work authorization and will need to submit approved parole extension with request.

Keeping families together

Violy Dawana, 54, said yesterday her prayers were answered when USCIS made the announcement of a two-year parole extension. On Wednesday, Dawana said she was hoping and praying USCIS will extend their parole or she will be separated from her 16-year-old son who is still in 10th grade at Saipan Southern High School.

"This is one big thing to be really thankful for. This is good news," Dawana said.

She said by 2014, her son would already graduate from high school and she also hopes to have a fulltime job by then. Dawana lost her job because of the economic uncertainties.

"If we have a two-year parole, that would really be a great help. And I don't need to be separated from my son," she added.

Sablan, who has just been elected to a third two-year term as the CNMI's first and so far only nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, said it's important that families with some U.S. citizens and some non-U.S. citizens be allowed to remain together in their home in the CNMI.

"We can't afford any more population loss," he said. "It's important that we keep working to make sure that employers always hire qualified U.S. workers when they are available. It's important to make sure that our hotels and other employers have a sufficient number of workers so that our economy can start growing again."

Sablan said he is grateful to Mayorkas, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, and President Obama for allowing these CNMI families to "continue to remain together."

Mavine M., 36, said yesterday she's relieved to hear the news of a two-year parole extension consideration.

"Once I renew my parole valid for two more years and I apply for employment authorization document, more employers would be more willing to hire us," said the mother of a 5-year-old and a 1-year-old.

Had USCIS not announced an extension, she would have been forced to go back home to the Philippines and bring her minor U.S. citizen daughters with her.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement, said USCIS' Thanksgiving announcement came at a most opportune time.

"People have one more thing to be thankful for," said Sagana, whose parole will also be expiring on Dec. 31, 2012. He said employers would be more accommodating when they know applicants have at least a two-year parole as well as EAD.

Administration's concerns

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday on USCIS' Thanksgiving announcement, said the Fitial administration maintains the position that "decisions made today must be made consistent with the laws of today."

"It is still unclear why USCIS would take action proceeded on the basis that a new law would come into effect. In this case, not only did 'tomorrow' not come, but there seems a low likelihood that a law proposing a large influx of individuals who would otherwise not be permitted to enter U.S. soil will be passed," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was poised to sue DHS last year when it announced a one-year parole to those covered by Sablan's H.R. 1466.

How to request for parole extension

USCIS, in a news release yesterday, said one must reside in the CNMI and be a legal spouse, unmarried child under 21, or parent (regardless of the age of your child) of a United States citizen, referred to as an "immediate relative," to request for parole extension.

They must have been granted parole by Nov. 5, 2012, in order to follow the simplified extension request procedure.

The request for extension of parole must include:

- Letter from the immediate relative asking for an extension of parole (or from the U.S. citizen family member if the immediate relative is a child who is too young to complete the parole request package) and explain under what relationship one is requesting this (such as parent, spouse, child), and whether one has been arrested or convicted of any crime since their original request.
- Form G-325, Biographic Information, completed within the past 30 days;
- Copy of one's I-94;
- Copy of one's EAD one has received; and
- Copy of one's passport, only if a new one was issued since the person last applied for parole.
- USCIS said all these items must be sealed in one envelope and clearly write on the outside of the envelope:
- Your name
- "PAROLE EXTENSION FOR IR of USC"
- The expiration date of your parole

USCIS said one can make an appointment for their parole extension request at the USCIS Office in Saipan or one can mail his request to:

DHS-USCIS
Sirena Plaza, Suite 100
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910
ATTN: PAROLE EXTENSION - CNMI

No fee

USCIS said there is no fee for this extension request.

It also recommends that one keeps a copy of all documents.

"This parole extension will allow the immediate relative to remain with the U.S. citizen lawfully in the CNMI, but parole does not authorize employment," USCIS said.

It also said immediate relatives must, as before, obtain an Employment Authorization Document by submitting a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization or obtain work authorization as a CW-1 CNMI-Only Transitional Worker or other employment-based nonimmigrant status under federal immigration law.

USCIS also said this announcement does not extend to anyone other than the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

"USCIS may grant parole on a case-by-case basis based on the individual circumstances presented and has exercised parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations," it added.

USCIS is the agency within DHS responsible for immigration benefits. For more information, visit USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/cnmi.

The expiration of the two-year parole extension also almost coincides with the Dec. 31, 2014, end of the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program in the CNMI. However, this transition period may be extended so that the CNMI would continue to have access to thousands of skilled foreign labor, mostly from Asian countries such as the Philippines, China, Thailand, Korea, and Bangladesh.

Soup kitchen dishes out Thanksgiving fare to a hundred

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thanksgiving meal came free for about 100 community members who trooped to the CNMI Salvation Army's Guma Yo' ase' Soup Kitchen in Chalan Piao yesterday noon.

Clients were treated to an array of traditional Thanksgiving fare such as ham and turkey that were prepared and served by close to 30 volunteers, majority of whom were from the Salvation Army church. Food was served from noon to about 3pm.

Ministry leader Wayne Gillespie said yesterday that preparation for the event began as early as Wednesday, with the soup kitchen buzzing with volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to be able to feed those who wouldn't have a meal during this major holiday.

The male volunteers were in charge of setting up the outdoor tents to provide shade to the diners, while the female volunteers, including the Salvation Army's Donut Girls, were tasked to do the bulk of the work ,which was preparing the dishes.

Through the volunteers' efforts, Gillespie said they were able to feed many clients, including a few homeless people . One volunteer offered to bring plates of food to a homeless family who spent their holiday on a beach.

"We are tremendously grateful to our selfless volunteers," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "They put in a lot of hard work that made this Thanksgiving meal happen. Without them, we also wouldn't be able to operate our soup kitchen."

Salvation Army's many sponsors and donors were also acknowledged. Gillespie disclosed that Thelma Inos and one anonymous sponsor donated ham, while Evan and Kristine Yamagishi donated both ham and turkey.

The generosity of businesses such as Bank of Hawaii and Dickerson & Quinn also allowed them to do this annual service. Gillespie thanked as well the Saipan Community School and the San Antonio Elementary School for organizing a food drive to benefit their faith-based group.

"We wish everyone Happy Thanksgiving and we extend our gratitude to all our volunteers and sponsors," said Gillespie.

He noted, however, that they still help to pay for rent and utility expenses at the soup kitchen, which serves between 150 and 200 individuals per week.

"We're hoping to find businesses and churches that might be able to help us financially and partner with us to help us operate the soup kitchen," he said.

Gillespie said they also need donations of clean and serviceable items for their thrift store next to the soup kitchen, which helps raise funds for their operations.

"Come find your treasure at our thrift store. You might be surprised at the kind of items you find here because we try to keep it fun and interesting," he added.

To donate or for more information, visit the CNMI Salvation Army Facebook page or call 483-0885.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

CNMI Salvation Army Ministry leader Annie Gillespie, right, leads other volunteers in serving Thanksgiving meal at the Guma Yo' ase' soup kitchen in Chalan Piao yesterday.

Hawaiian Style
Silver Jewelry & Gift Shop
✯ Fine Hawaiian Silver Jewelry
✯ Hawaiian T-shirts and Local wear
✯ Hawaiian Gifts
✯ LOCAL PRICES

Hawaiian Style Discount Card 10-20% OFF on selected items
Seasoned Citizen Discount 10% OFF on selected items (every Wednesdays)
Happy Birthday Discount 10% OFF on selected items on Birth date
Marked-Down section 20-80% OFF on selected items (Daily)

Kileleman Bldg.
Hawaiian Style Silver Jewelry & Gift Shop
PASEO DE MARIANAS
PALM STREET
Godfather's Bar
Johnny's Bar
BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN

Located in Kileleman Building, Palm Street, Garapan
Telephone No. 233-6970 Open Everyday 3pm – 10pm

JUMP START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WITH
BLACK FRIDAY SALE
1 DAY ONLY
Designed for Humans
Inspired by Nature
$299*
GALAXY S III
Samsung GALAXY S II Epic Touch
$100*
$199*
BLU Click Plus
BLU Deejay II
Nokia X2-01
CDMA
GSM
Samsung U450 Intensity
Samsung U360
Samsung U365
All accessories are 20% Off • 15% Off on All Prepaid Long Distance & Prepaid Wireless Cards***
All GSM phones include $10 Prepaid SIM Card ***5 Cards per purchase.
UNLIMITED ANDROID PLAN
$79 PER MONTH
UNLIMITED AIRTIME MINUTES
UNLIMITED Local Text Messaging
UNLIMITED 3G Android Data
*Some conditions apply • must sign up for 2-yr contract on Unlimited Android Plan
IT&E Life in Motion
682-4ITE (4483)
www.ite.net
customercare@itehq.net
Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483)
Chalan LauLau Customer Care Ofc. • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza)
New Store Hours • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza) Tuesday to Saturday • 10:00AM - 6:00PM

Upcoming Marines exercise on Tinian scaled down

A scheduled U.S. Marines exercise called Operation Forager Fury has been scaled down in terms of number of Marines from Japan participating and the type of activities they will conduct on Tinian, mainly because of high seas that will cancel the use of a high-speed vessel that is supposed to bring in more participants to the island, officials said Wednesday.

Operation Forager Fury, initially set for Nov. 29 to Dec. 12, was earlier estimated to bring to Tinian some 300 Marines stationed in Japan.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Rep. Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian) separately said Wednesday they are not aware of the number of Marines that will actually train on Tinian as a result of the decision to scale down the exercise.

Roy N. Tsutsui, Defense coordinating officer representative for Defense Support of Civil Authorities, Joint Region Marianas Defense Representative Political-Military Affairs Policy Advisor, told CNMI officials that "due to high seas, HSV transport of heavy equipment to Tinian was cancelled so Forager Fury is reduced."

Tsutsui said the following will be cancelled or reduced: No Tinian North Field operations or clearing; no tent city at North Field; much reduced number of Marines; and some community relations projects, especially with heavy equipment are cancelled.

He, however, said the following will go on: West Field operations including arresting gear, jets, fuel bladders; use of hotel rooms; contracting for porta-potties; MV-22 Osprey on Tinian; Use of FDM; search and rescue practice in Pagan with MV-22; medical/dental community relations on Tinian; medical community relations on Pagan; and Tinian trash dumpster with disposal on Saipan.

Tsutsui said the West Field gear will arrive on Nov. 28 via contract air. He said it should take them until Dec. 5 to be ready for operations.

Operation Forager Fury is the latest military exercise to be conducted on Tinian.

Marine Air Group-12, based in Iwakuni, Japan, under the 1st Aircraft Wing of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted Operation Geiger Fury on Tinian in May. Another exercise was held on Tinian in September.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

During World War II, Tinian had the busiest airfield in the world. It was the launching pad of the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, putting a decisive end to the war. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Holiday Season 2012

Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign

December 12, 2012 - January 01, 2013

DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

Seasons Greetings

From your pals on the squad.

SAIPAN

TINIAN

ROTA

BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING AND FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Tis the season to be jolly, not arrested... Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

For more information call:
SAIPAN 664-9001/2 • TINIAN 433-9222 • ROTA 532-9433

Knights love turtles

Mount Carmel School students gather for a photo after helping turtles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JANELA REVILLA and KUINO CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mount Carmel School's freshmen class took part in the preservation of marine life on Saturday, Nov. 11, gathering at Wing Beach early morning to observe and learn about sea turtles and their nests.

Every year, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration allows students to engage in a Sea Turtle Watch, a field activity in which participants are able to get a firsthand look at the early stages of sea turtle life. The program includes a census of hatched and unhatched eggs.

Thomas Manglona, the freshmen class president, coordinated last Saturday's event in connection with Project Citizen, an initiative under teacher Rosiky Camacho's NMI History class.

Students hiked to the location where NOAA biologist Tammy Summers gave a brief introduction regarding the site and its purpose. After the orientation, the freshmen class cleared up the shore to locate turtle nests. This process required the students to record the nests' depth and temperature. Most importantly, they counted the number of eggs in the breeding grounds. Thirty baby sea turtles were later released into the ocean. Unfortunately, a few baby turtles were found dead in their nests and the students buried them in the sand along with farewell notes. In the end, the class dedicated a banner to the sea turtles.

The Turtle Watch provided the class with a greater understanding of sea turtles. Not only did it promote marine conservation, but it also encouraged these students to spread awareness.

Manglona was especially delighted with the result of the program and said, "My class is thankful to Tammy Summers for her time and support in providing us with this great experience. We look forward to more projects involving the CNMI sea turtles and public awareness."

Ex-DPL special assistant asks for release pending his appeal

A former special assistant to the secretary of the Department of Public Lands who was convicted of bribery has asked the federal court for his release pending appeal.

Franz Benjamin Reksid filed Tuesday a motion for release while his appeal remains pending with the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Jurors found Reksid guilty of one count of bribery in connection with a Brownsfield program that receives federal funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He was sentenced by U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Nov. 9 to an 18-month prison term followed by two years supervised release.

Reksid currently remains free while waiting for the U.S. Marshals Service to name a federal facility where he will serve his sentence.

According to Reksid's lawyer, Mark B. Hanson, his client is not a flight risk, not a danger to the community, and the defendant's appeal and the motion for his release are not to intended to delay. Reksid, his lawyer said, has and will present issues to the Ninth Circuit that are "substantial" in nature, fairly debatable, and that would require reversal or resentencing if Reksid prevails some or all of the issues presented.

Reksid filed his request to remain free pending appeal on Nov. 20.

Reksid was allowed to travel unescorted more than once outside the Commonwealth during the trial of his case. In all these occasions, his lawyer said Reksid returned to Saipan voluntarily after all his medical trips in Hawaii. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

Come and Celebrate
Thanksgiving Weekend Brunch
at The GRILL Restaurant
November 25, 2012
from 11am to 2pm w/ free pool pass
$20.00 per person
$12.00 for kids (4-11 years old)
Sunday Brunch Promo every other Sunday of the Month
From 11am to 2pm w/ free pool pass
$20.00 per person
$12.00 for kids (4-11 years old)
LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT
SPECIAL TREAT
$50 only for Lunch and
18 Holes (East or West Course)
Some conditions apply.
For RESERVATIONS, please call 236-8831 or email us at fnb@laolaobay.com

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE
BLACK FRIDAY
ONE DAY SALE!
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
25%off
NOVEMBER 23, 2012
Furniture • Whirlpool Appliances • Power & Hand Tools • Selected Hardware
Plumbing • Electrical • Lawn & Garden • Pet Supplies • Automotive
• Paint Supplies • Cleaning Supplies and Housewares
15%off
Garden Power Tools • Air Compressor
Pressure Washer • Generator • Bed Sets
Foundations and Mattresses.
12:00 PM TO 6:00 PM
15% Off - Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Selected Hardware, Paint Supplies, Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies, Automotive, Cleaning Supplies, Housewares, Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Pressure Washer, Generator, Bed Sets & Mattress/foundation
10% off
Chain Saw
16" Poulan
STIHL
JOETEN
ACE
Saipan & Rota
The Helpful Place!
ALL LOCATIONS:
Gualo Rai, Susupe , San Vicente
and Songsong Rota Branch
Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumber, Building Materials, Water pump, Water Heater and etc.)
• Except Sale Items
• Cash and Carry
• Some items not discountable
• No rain checks
• Delivery charge $10.00
• Credit card acceptable
• In stock merchandise only
We accept major credit cards
EXPRESS VISA MasterCard

Tribal Theory brings everyone to their feet with their original compositions from their debut album "Hell of a Night."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Nesia Fest prelude to more island reggae acts

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the successful staging of the United Nesia Fest: Coming Home Tour – Part 2, organizers are already poised to bring in more live island reggae music to Saipan.

"We will work hard to continue to bring the islands top-notch entertainment… Stay tuned and see you at Part 3," said Rob Travilla, founder and creative director of Salbahe' Co.

Salbahe' Co. teamed up with Betelnut Radio for the concert event of the year, held Saturday evening at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

United Nesia Fest: Coming Home Tour – Part 2, which attracted 500 reggae fans from the Northern Marianas and Guam, was highlighted by the reggae sensation Tribal Theory.

"The turnout surpassed our expectations and we are truly grateful to everyone for coming out," Travilla told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taking pride in its Pacific Island roots, the San Diego-based band was formed in 2005 and has established itself as one of the most sought-after live performing groups.

The group is composed of Ajay Blount in lead vocals; Alex Lugwa, drums; Edrick Clark, bass; Henry "Kiki" Curiel, keyboards/vocals; Nico Tuilesu, lead vocals; Peter Paul Guerrero-Cruz, guitar; and Seuko "Ku" Hawkins, lead vocals.

"The crowd loved Tribal Theory," Travilla said, bringing everyone to their feet with their original compositions from their debut album "Hell of a Night," including *Stuck in the Middle, Hell of a Night, Tell Me*, and the island's favorite, *DeJah Vu.* They also sang songs from their EP, namely *Reggae Party* and *Come On Over*, and did a few covers like J Boog's *Ganja Farmer*, Steel Pulse's *Your House*, and Inner Circle's *Sweat*.

Talented local performers served as opening acts that night, said Travilla. They are Ryan and Troy Imamura, Tom Basa Jr., Marvin Deleon Guerrero, 15 Rootz, and Ben The Human Beatbox.

Tribal Theory also did an encore performance at the Poseidon Bar in Garapan the following night, after spending the entire day doing water sports, sightseeing historical landmarks at the northern part of the island, and swimming at the Grotto.

Travilla said the group, including their manager Frank Aguon, thanked everyone for showing them a lot of love during their short stay on island.

Sponsors of the show were Docomo Pacific, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Power 99, KMMN-WLTH Stars & Stones, Mestisu Visuals, Fiesta Resort & Spa, KKMP 92.1FM, Boarderline Surf & Skate Shop, and Budget Car Rental.

Vanuatu party seeks ban on naturalized citizen candidates

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—Vanuatu's customary political party, the Nagriamel movement, says the country needs to amend its constitution to prevent naturalized citizens contesting general elections.

» Nagriamel secretary says country does not want foreigners in leadership

This follows last month's success of an American-born naturalized Vanuatu citizen, Robert Bohn, who won a seat in the 52-member parliament. Johnny Blades reports.

Energized by its own success in winning three seats in parliament, the Nagriamel has indicated it wants parliament to address the increasing influence of foreign interests in Vanuatu.

The Nagriamel secretary general Jeff Patunvanu says naturalized citizens don't necessarily understand the Melanesian values that Vanuatu's constitution is based on.

He says Nagriamel will push for legislation to address the way naturalized citizens should be treated.

"The country does not like to have foreigners leading this country. It's a very small country and a very unique country in the Pacific. We have more belief on our custom traditions, more on our Melanesian fashions, Melanesian ways and Melanesian belief. That's why we believe the way the country is heading to is not the right way."

The new MP, Robert Bohn is a well known investor who has lived in Vanuatu for 33 years, since before independence.

He says Jeff Patunvanu's comments come from a position of unfounded fear about a takeover by naturalized citizens.

"Are we going to, as a country, accept naturalized citizens but somehow relegate them to a second class status? That's an issue we need to look at for the country. I somewhat disagree that our constitution is based solely on Melanesian values. Certainly they're there and certainly we need to respect them, but there are democratic values, there are lots of other issues that need to be brought into play, need to be thought about, when we're looking at our constitution."

Robert Bohn says he believes he has a general understanding of Melanesian values, yet has much to learn too.

However, he says people in Epi exercised their democratic rights by electing him as their representative.

"Now the people on Epi have listened to thirteen different candidates and they chose to go with their homegrown political party and they've elected me, a naturalized citizen, as their first candidate, by a fair margin. So the people of Epi have spoken and you've got to respect that."

The leader of the Reunification of Movement for Change party, Charlot Salwai, says the constitution provides that foreigners must live in Vanuatu for ten years before gaining citizenship.

"Any leaders of the community can recommend (citizenship) as a recognition of what he's doing after ten years in Vanuatu. I think the issue is that we need to reconsider that many are getting citizenship after being here for less than ten years. Even (after) two years, people are getting citizenship and we need to reconsider that."

The issue may yet be examined by parliament in conjunction with the country's persistent problem of government ministers selling diplomatic passports.

The number of foreigners holding Vanuatu diplomatic passports last year was still higher than the number of Vanuatu citizens holding the same.

Am. Samoa has a new governor, lieutenant governor

» Lolo-Lemanu team wins run-off polling by more than 700 votes

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International)—American Samoa has elected a new governor and lieutenant governor.

Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lemanu Peleti Mauga have topped the polls winning yesterday's runoff election by more than 700 votes.

The Lolo and Lemanu team garnered 6,645 or 52 percent, while rivals Faoa Aitofele Sunia and Taufete'e John Faumuina received 5,908 or 47.1 percent.

Lolo and Lemanu led in nearly all of the voting districts on Tutuila, Aunuu and Manu'a.

Their victory brings an end to 16 years of the Tauese Togiola and Togiola Faoa administrations.

Lolo is a former Senate president and most recently was president of the Development Bank of American Samoa.

Lemanu is a first term senator and is a retired Army major.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 23, 2000

Teno vetoes amendment to Youth Congress law

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio nixed two bills yesterday—one that sought amendment to the law creating Youth Congress and the other granting authority to the municipal council on each island to enact local ordinances and appropriation. In vetoing HB 12-209 or the "Youth Congress Revision Act," he raised concerns that were expressed by incumbent members of Youth Congress as well as conflicting provisions that he said need to be addressed first. "We are all supportive of youth activities, including the Youth Congress," the chief executive said in his veto message to the presiding officers of the Legislature.

BOE seeks AG opinion on teacher representative

Uncertain of the legality of a recent Board of Education move to fill a teacher representative vacancy within the policy-making body, BOE Chair Frances H. Diaz said yesterday the board has taken steps to untangle the legal loopholes by seeking assistance from the Attorney General's Office. BOE earlier sent out ballots containing names of five aspiring teacher representatives to the Public School System faculty to fill a vacancy left by now Hopwood Junior High School principal David Borja. "The ballots already came back and we counted the votes but when we looked at public law 6-10, the Commonwealth executive order, and the language of our own BOE by laws, we were unsure of whether the process we employed was valid," said Diaz.

Nov. 23, 2002

House seeks resolution to CUC-CDA standoff

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement drafted to heal the long-standing conflict between the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is reportedly in limbo following the CUC Board's refusal to affix its signature on the deal. The CUC's reluctance reportedly stems from a last-minute inserted amendment to the MOA that states, "Debtor agrees not to raise its utility rates without first justifying such increases to the CNMI Legislature and obtaining its approval by joint resolution or other legislative measure." Rep. Joe P. Guerrero, chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said the provision was included in the MOA to satisfy concerns that were raised in the Senate about the possibility of the CUC raising utility rates.

DOLI: Aging labor cases under review

The Department of Labor and Immigration is now reviewing the old pending cases of workers, following findings that some of them continue to seek food assistance from a non-government organization. DOLI Secretary Joaquin A. Tenorio said he has ordered concerned staff to look into the old files to see how many cases remain pending at the courts for years now. "There's a concern about workers whose cases have not been resolved since about four, five years ago. We're now looking into this. We understand it's in the court now but we'll try to help out," said Tenorio.

Nov. 23, 2004

Bush sets aside $15.5M to fight BTS

President Bush has signed the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2004 into law, setting aside up to $15.5 million from fiscal years 2006 to 2010 to intensify the campaign against the economic pest that has plagued Guam and threatens other Pacific islands, including the CNMI. The new law calls for the expansion of interagency and intergovernmental rapid response teams in the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Palau, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia. The law authorizes the allotment of funds to improve efforts to control the spread of the snake population from Guam to neighboring Pacific territories and freely associated states; its eventual goal is to eradicate millions of brown tree snakes on Guam.

Continental seeks $500 million in pay cuts

Continental Airlines has announced that it needs an annual $500 million reduction in payroll and benefits costs. This reduction is necessary because the company has lost hundreds of millions of dollars since 2001, and expects to lose hundreds of millions of dollars more in 2004, the airline explained in a statement. "Continental must adjust its costs to a level that will let it survive and grow; otherwise, it will have no prospect of returning to profitability under prevailing market conditions," the statement adds.

Oceans Club winds down tonight; club to re-open as an outdoor bar

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Oceans Club will open its doors to the public for the last time tonight after almost two successful years in the business, but its owners promised to re-introduce the "Oceans" brand as an outdoor bar by December once it moves to a new Garapan location.

Located along Paseo de Marianas, Oceans Club is a disco and bar spot that opened in March 5, 2001, and has catered to many local patrons on weekends, while tourists make up a big part of their clientele, especially on weekdays.

Rei Yamagishi of WTT-USA, LLC, owner and operator of Oceans Club, is inviting the public, particularly their regular customers, to join them in their moving out party, which promises to give everyone a great time.

Tonight's event, which will be held from 8pm to 2am, will feature a Special Budweiser Promotion where Budweiser products are priced at $3 each and vodka cocktails for $4 each. The event will also feature guest DJs Boss, Furbz, and Jaybo to fill the club with fantastic music all night long.

Also, visitors will each be given a ticket for a chance to win Budweiser and Docomo prize giveaways.

"We appreciate all the support we received for two years, which is a pretty big accomplishment given the state of our economy. So we really hope to see everyone tonight," Yamagishi told *Saipan Tribune*.

About a week or so from tonight, Yamagishi said that their loyal patrons and the rest of the public can look forward to the opening of Oceans Bar at the Saipan Square Garden next to Power 99, also in Paseo de Marianas.

Oceans Bar would be an outdoor bar where customers can comfortably sip their favorite cocktails and other drinks while socializing with friends or making new ones, said Yamagishi.

He revealed plans of setting up high-speed Wi-Fi to accommodate tech-savvy clients, at the same time transforming the new location, including hooking up their music feed to the next door radio station, to fit their small but cozy operation.

Yamagishi, who grew up on Saipan, said the move to open the new Oceans Bar is "already time" and is part of a bigger plan to create entertainment for the people of Saipan, which include more unique bars and hangout spots.

"We want to move on and provide people choices," said Yamagishi, whose mentor was his father who established the first diving operation on island, as well as real estate and other business ventures.

Yamagishi explained that his idea to keep the "Oceans" brand was due to sentimental reasons. "Oceans is the very first bar we operated, and we intend to keep it going," he explained.

Besides the brand name, Yamagishi said they are keeping their skilled and friendly bartenders.

"We are fairly confident that we can survive. Because the people liked Oceans Club, we are positive that they would also like what we have in store for them. I hope they keep supporting us and we'll do our best to provide them with quality service," said Yamagishi.

Tonight's event is sponsored by WTT-USA, LLC, Budweiser, Docomo, Power 99, and Crystal Company.

AIRPORT SAFETY TRAINING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Black smoke coming from an airport personnel safety training billows over the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Friday morning.

Remembrance Program to honor memory of all kids gone too soon

The death of a child, of any age, from any cause, is a shattering experience for a family. The family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The holidays are often an especially difficult time.

Families and friends are invited to join a Remembrance Program on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012, at 6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe to honor their loved ones. The program is being held in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends' 16th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting Service. Tens of thousands of bereaved family members around the globe will join together to light remembrance candles to honor the memories of children who have died but will never be forgotten.

Candle will be lit at 7pm local time, as we commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon. A virtual 24-hour wave of light will move from time zone to time zone around the world.

For more information contact Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or jilld@pticom.com if you have reading to share or find out how you can help.

The Compassionate Friends (TCF, www.compassionatefriends.org/home.aspx) is a national mutual assistance, self-help organization that offers friendship, understanding, and support to family members who have experienced the death of a son, daughter, brother, sister, or grandchild, and helps others better assist grieving families. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 276

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are the only solution

The eruption of another round of warfare between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza may come as a surprise to casual followers of the news, but it's been building for years. Almost as soon as the last Israeli incursion into Gaza ended in January 2009, Hamas began rebuilding its arsenal with the aim of launching new terror attacks on Israel's territory to spark yet one more episode of reprisals and bloodletting.

The earlier round of fighting, Operation Cast Lead, produced a ground invasion by Israel that cost Palestinians in Gaza 1,400 lives and at least $2 billion in damages. This one may be heading in the same direction. It has already produced more than 100 Palestinian dead in Gaza, including senior leaders of Hamas, but also some 50 civilians. More than 700 have been wounded. That's before another ground invasion, if there is one.

There is no rational way to explain how any of this serves the interests of the people of Gaza. They live in one of the world's most crowded and destitute entities. They need social services and economic assistance, not the daily round of anti-Israel hate propaganda Hamas dishes out while it fires deadly rocket attacks into Israel and uses the people of Gaza as human shields when the inevitable counter-punch arrives.

It's easier to assign responsibility for the fighting than to find a solution. Israel has a duty to protect its people from the indefensible and intolerable barrage of rocket attacks coming from Gaza. Its people have a right to live in peace. Any country facing Israel's situation would feel obliged to resort to the same forceful measures to defend itself.

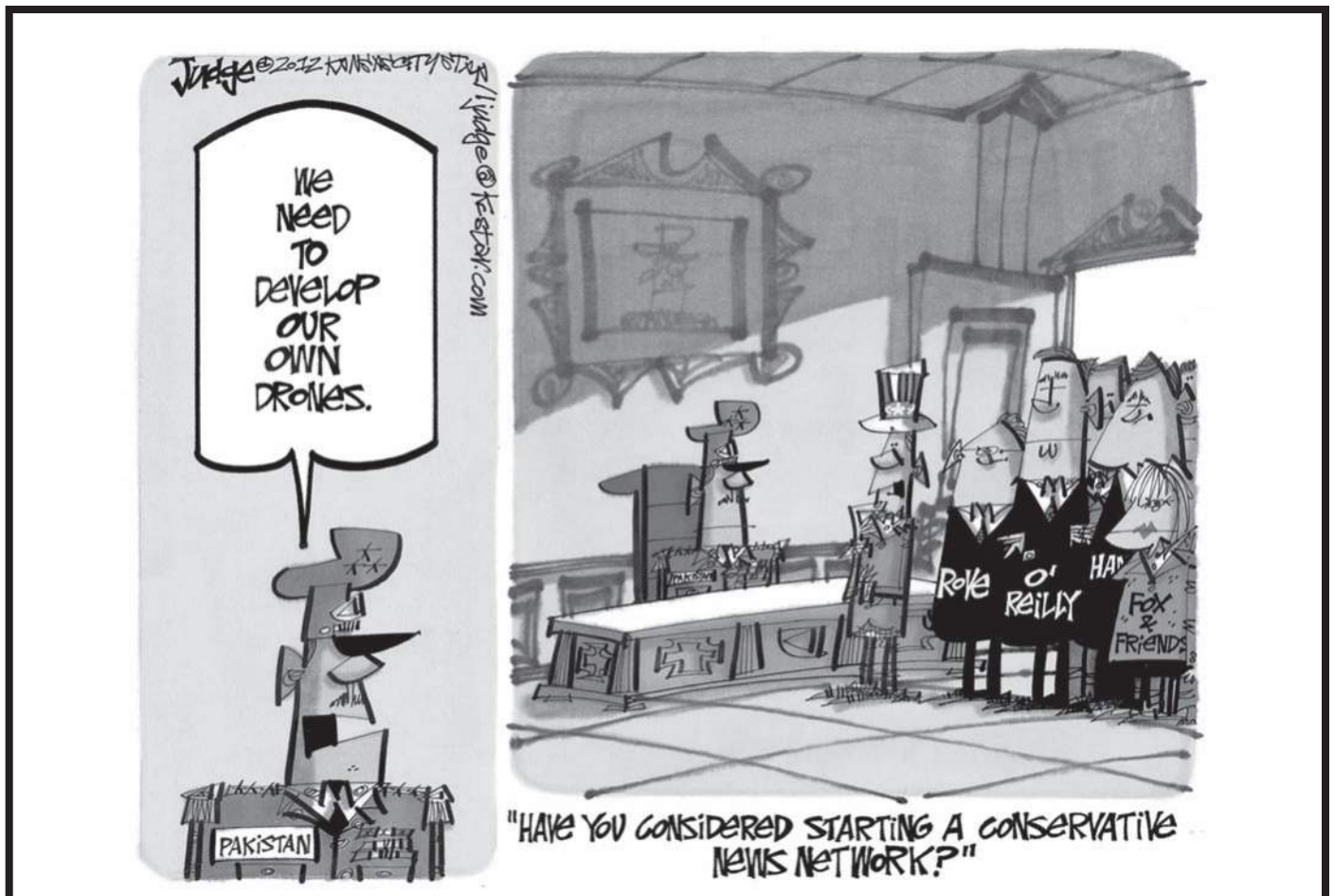
But Israel needs to solve its problem, not merely manage it. The strategy of episodic reprisals—"mowing the grass," some call it—is not a long-term solution. Complicating the picture are the shifting dynamics of the region. The "Arab Spring" has made it harder for countries like Egypt to stay out of a conflict in which Palestinians are portrayed as victims by Arab media.

Another troubling factor: The cost to Israel is rising. Its Iron Dome system has successfully intercepted more than 300 rockets fired at populated areas, but the incoming rockets cost a few hundred dollars and the interceptor missiles cost $40,000 to $50,000 each. It was paid for in part by $204 million from the United States in 2009. This year, Israel again asked for help from the Obama administration and received $70 million and a pledge of another $610 million over three years.

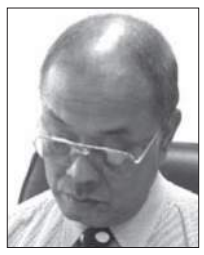
All of this makes it urgent for the other countries of the region—particularly Egypt and Turkey—to help negotiate a truce that can open the way to peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians. That will require all parties to give something.

None of this is likely to happen unless the people of Gaza renounce the leadership of Hamas. As long as they live under the rule of terrorists, they will never have a better future.

©2012 The Miami Herald


WE NEED TO DEVELOP OUR OWN DRONES.
PAKISTAN
ROYE O' REILLY
FOX & FRIENDS
"HAVE YOU CONSIDERED STARTING A CONSERVATIVE NEWS NETWORK?"

Fatal institutional myopia



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The thought of being saddled with more huge fees and taxes as a result of the new power plant deal is a bit too hard to chew no matter how you dice or splice it.

Why am I consistently and persistently addressing this issue? Simple: Nobody in this administration has the coconuts to tell the truth and nothing but the truth about a financial monstrosity it has created that would follow our kids from cradle to grave.

It's known as institutional myopia that simply neglects the needs and future of posterity, not to mention uncertainty, fanned by the lack of a plan that defines policy matters.

Imagine the day you start paying $40,000 in additional fees and taxes coming from a $2.3-billion power plant contract signed by the governor. It doesn't leave much room for young people to plan for their future, does it? It's hopelessness for generations to come.

In the absence of honest and clear explanation, it leaves the issue with piles of questions. I could only surmise four reasons for this deafening silence. Here are issues you would face under the new deal:

1. No matter who you are you will feel the crushing pain of heavier taxes when you begin paying $40K more per year of your share in the new power plant deal.

2. It would trigger the final exodus of foreign capital from the islands because the cost of doing business here would be prohibitively costly. The economic climate is bad enough as it is under deepening cataclysmic conditions.

3. It would permanently ruin the economic freedom of our future generations for several generations.

4. It would force the relocation of many people to greener pasture elsewhere because job opportunities here has consistently contracted heavily too.

The new fees and taxes would be the steepest in CNMI developmental history. The shock to working families here would be so huge most would be repeating what a fellow citizens said about the punishing utility bills: "When I was young I was afraid of the dark. Now that I am an adult I am afraid of the light."

Referendum on governor

For all intent and purposes, the Voice for the Future has spoken loudly too. The recent mid-term elections is seen as a referendum on the governor. No doubt he received his trophy in crushing defeat and rebuke. It was clearly about his failure to improve the lot of the multitude.

With more than $2.6 billion in cumulative debt, it's equally unsettling the simultaneous significant decline or contraction of revenue generation. It means budgetary shortfall paralyzing more services in the near-term. The CNMI is chronically incapable of paying its debts. It could only blindly spend and watch another mountain of debt pile up. Now, is there any chance to secure a bailout from somewhere or would declaring bankruptcy the next best and only option? It's unsettling!

Basic tenets

In simple terms, "economics entails the study of scarcity and its final disposition." In our case, scarcity is our woefully limited and fast declining financial resources. Economists define a recession as two quarters of economic contraction. In our case, it's a matter of persistent depression, a condition far worse than recession.

Now, "fiscal policy is how government manages its budget." How do we manage a budget when more than half of total collection would be earmarked to pay off the new power plant debt of over $7 million annually? There's hardly anything left for other services and obligations. How do we divvy up anemic revenue collection?

A government uses expansionary fiscal policy to stimulate the economy and create more growth. This is most critical at the contraction phase of the business cycle when people are clamoring for relief from, in our case, a depression. With utility cost forcing the closure of more businesses, it's actually contractionary rather than expansionary. There's no room for growth, is there?

The issues before us are significant and daunting. It obviates the question: How do we address our current crises that require rigorous and deliberative debate? Disagreement, rather than sheer inconvenience, is an essential reflection of the public mood. Hard-nosed bargaining is necessary in a democracy. Leadership and compromise are essential.

The governor has been averse to either but takes preference lecturing his nemesis about "milk" and "stupidity" as he kicks the can down the hill, stunned and disoriented at the voters' conclusive and decisive verdict against him recently.

The issues before us will require unprecedented economic insight, policy vision and very skilled political leadership—all qualities in short supply in this administration.

If the administration resorts to pension obligation bond, would there be enough revenue to cushion the impact of repaying the loan? Governments are known to run out of gas—repayment ability—some years down the road, incurring higher interest rates in the process. This necessitates a plan to use as a guide.

The defeated impeachment resolution jarringly reveals how Republicans have drifted from the laws and constitution of the CNMI. Combine these with the economy under a respirator and it doesn't leave much room for optimism for anything at all. Too, the year 2013 isn't a banner year for the local economy either. In fact, the slow descent to the abyss of the most egregious hardship has begun. Brace for it!

When Santa brings a Chinese book

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If you're looking for some common elements between the Atlantic and Pacific, something beyond big, hairy cyclonic storms that chew everything up, here's something for the list: Mandarin Chinese. The Macon, Georgia school system is making Mandarin a mandatory part of the curriculum.

That's one item in a growing story. Closer to home, a few of the more promising kids in our circles are going to be getting Chinese language books as Christmas gifts. I'm a mere student of the tongue, and probably not even a good student, but even I know there are a few things worth heeding from the get-go, either for students or for Santa's helpers shopping for an educational gift.

My take is not authoritative. It's not even competent. But that's what gives it that wholesome, home-cooked flavor. A perfect touch for the holidays! Hey, who's your buddy?

If there is an elegant way to paint a slick overview of Mandarin for potential students, well, I can't come up with one. So I just lump things into three categories: (1) verbal language, (2) phonetic writing, and (3) character writing.

As a backdrop to this, I'll note that the mainland Chinese way of the language, and the Taiwanese way of the language, have some important differences for students. I'll mention some distinctions here as they crop up.

Anyway, as for the verbal side of things, all sorts of learning materials are available. There are free YouTube videos, paid online video courses, free audio courses, paid audio courses, computer programs, and so on.

One respected veteran in this crowded field is the Pimsleur audio course. I've written about it before and I won't rehash it again here, but I found the course very useful.

Now I'll build a bridge from the spoken language to the writing side of things. Let's say that a friendly waiter in a restaurant tells you the word for your favorite Chinese dish. You want to learn the word, but, if you're like me, the only way to really remember it is to write it down. So you have to capture the sound of the word with your pen.

In English, of course, that would be easy. English is a phonetic language. We sound things out with our alphabet. But Chinese doesn't use an alphabet. So people have invented various ways to put these (verbal) words into a phonetically (written) format using our Western alphabet. The most common way nowadays is called "pinyin," and this is a term that most students will encounter quite often.

Pinyin is a big deal. It's the first thing we learned in my first Chinese class. However, pinyin is mostly a mainland Chinese thing, and many of my friends in Taiwan aren't familiar with it at all unless they happen to be language teachers. The Taiwanese have their own phonetic system, but I am not savvy in it.

Pinyin is how I write down words I hear, how I look up words in a Chinese dictionary, and how I use my Chinese word processor. An example of a pinyin word you see all the time is "Beijing," the capital of China. (As commonly used in newspapers and such, this method dispenses with some accent marks, so it's not entirely complete pinyin but it gets the point across.)

Learning to use pinyin doesn't mean we've learned to read and write Chinese, it merely means we've learned a tool for phonetic mimicry.

Well, now we're ready for the full glory of the writing: Chinese characters. These are the exotic squiggles that are so famous. Many people study spoken Chinese without bothering themselves with the written characters. By contrast, many, or perhaps most, classroom approaches integrate the characters with their study of the verbal part of things.

Here's an important distinction to heed: China overhauled its written characters (some of them, not all of them) in order to make them easier to learn, and this form is called the "simplified" form. Taiwan, by contrast, adheres to the traditional characters, which are called, logically enough, "traditional" characters. Many advanced students study both. But for slobs like me who are still stuck in baby steps, I've found that trying to learn both is pretty overwhelming. I started off studying the traditional characters but have since shifted to the simplified.

What does this mean for Santas and for potential students? Well, various books generally emphasize various realms, so it helps to have some idea what you're interested in before you go shopping. Hence my above commentary.

Overall, I suspect that most people are interested in learning conversational skills, and for this need the best book I've encountered is Chinese 24/7 by Albert Wolfe.

Q: Would an all-out effort to tap America's energy cornucopia speed economic recovery?

For a cleaner planet we must focus on 'green' energy

By STEPHEN A. SMITH and WILLIAM A. SUNDSTROM
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Recent job growth numbers suggest that the U.S. economy is finally pulling out of its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. But with unemployment at nearly 8 percent, plenty of Americans are still hurting.

Energy policy can clearly play a role in economic growth if we choose policies that achieve the maximum benefit at the least cost. Unfortunately, some solutions being touted for fostering U.S. energy independence fail that basic economic test, offering little immediate help for the economy but costly economic and health consequences in the long run.

For instance, parts of North Dakota and Pennsylvania have recently experienced a natural gas bonanza, through a process known as "fracking," which could also potentially be used to extract oil from shale deposits in Montana.

According to projections by the International Energy Agency, tapping these new resources plus improvements in energy efficiency could allow the U.S. to become energy independent over the next 20 years.

The same report, however, projects that oil prices will increase because of new demand from developing countries. Thus, tapping these new energy resources will benefit energy companies, but not consumers at the pump.

Before expanding the use of fracking and other new extraction methods, we need to understand all of their costs. Fracking injects as much as five barrels of water and chemicals for each barrel of oil recovered.

It is currently exempt from the Clean Water Act, and there is no requirement to disclose even the chemicals that are used. It has resulted in flammable tap water and changes in local water tables, while the longer term effects on the water supplies and ecosystems have yet to be determined.

In effect, the current government policy provides a major subsidy to fracking, by not requiring accountability for these environmental costs.

CON

The U.S. also has very large coal deposits, but a recent study published in the prestigious American Economic Review found that coal-fired power plants create costs to public health that are more than twice the value they add to the economy.

In the long term, the cost of all fossil fuels should also include their contributions to climate change, because the overwhelming majority of climate scientists now agree that human generated carbon emissions are the major contributor. Even with extremely conservative assumptions about the costs of climate change, encouraging major expansion of fossil fuel production looks like bad policy.

Fortunately, there are other paths to energy independence and fuel cost savings for consumers that have lower environmental costs and provide greater benefits to American workers.

Plug-in hybrid cars, which are now offered by both GM and Ford, can accomplish the equivalent of 100 miles per gallon in local driving. Offering temporary incentives for purchasing these cars will stimulate demand and lower their production costs. This has already happened with standard hybrid cars, which now sell well with no subsidies. Converting to energy efficient cars will provide much greater fuel cost savings for consumers and more well-paying U.S. industrial jobs than new US based energy extractions.

Solar and wind energy now cost roughly the same as other alternatives for new power plants, and investments in an improved electric power grid will provide jobs and allow us to tap the full potential of these new energy resources.

The keys to maintaining and improving the economic recovery in the short term are well-known to economists: they include resolving the impending fiscal cliff and maintaining low and stable interest rates. Sound energy policies can also play an important role in job creation and provide significant long-run benefits.

We should not use the pain of America's unemployed to justify poorly regulated fossil fuel development that is bad for America in both the short run and the long run.

Stephen A. Smith and William A. Sundstrom are professors in the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University.

A blessing for all Americans

By THOMAS J. DONOHUE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This Thanksgiving, as American families count their blessings, we as a nation should also give thanks for what we have in abundance—energy.

An abundance of affordable, accessible and safe energy is a bright spot in an otherwise bleak economic environment. American energy could revitalize our economy, create millions of jobs, help reduce deficits, lessen our dependence on foreign sources and enhance our global competitiveness.

Because of technological advancements—hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling—we can now tap vast oil and gas resources in geologic formations that were previously too costly and too difficult to reach.

We have access to a 100-year supply of natural gas, and by 2020, oil production is expected to rise by 68 percent above 2008 levels, leading to a sharp drop in oil imports. By 2030, we could become a net energy exporter.

This is a game-changing development no one saw coming. Until recently, we were largely dependent on overseas sources, spending billions annually to import foreign oil, which made up 60 percent of our supply just five years ago. Our economy was increasingly vulnerable to the whims of unfriendly regimes and disruptions to the global energy supply.

Today, the new boom in shale oil and natural gas could actually transform our economy.

The U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy recently sponsored a report by energy research firm IHS-CERA to assess the economic benefits of the shale boom—if policymakers at the federal, state and local levels don't get in the way.

The findings show shale development has produced 1.75 million jobs over the past few years and could be responsible for 3.5 million jobs by 2035. Shale energy development will pump $237 billion into the U.S. economy this year and could generate $62 billion in federal, state, and local taxes and royalties. Total revenues could reach $2.35 trillion by 2035.

PRO

Shale and opportunities onshore, offshore, and in other sectors of the energy industry could give us a competitive advantage. Greater natural gas supplies will have driven down energy prices, attracting more jobs, companies, and investment to American shores, especially in manufacturing.

A surge in U.S. oil production will help solve the U.S. energy trade imbalance. And a resource-rich North America will shift the global energy landscape, substantially strengthening the security and geopolitical position of the United States and our neighbors.

Yet an abundant, affordable and secure energy supply is more opportunity than reality at this point. We won't realize its full potential unless we capitalize on the opportunity through sound policy and prudent development.

And let's be very clear—much of the recent progress has been despite the federal government, not because of it.

Most of the new energy production is taking place on private or state lands—federal lands remain largely closed. The private sector has driven growth by investing in new technologies, and the markets have accelerated innovation. Meanwhile, the government has attempted to pick winners and losers, and we know how that's gone.

The industry is working with state governments and the public to adopt best practices and strict environmental standards, and the states are effectively regulating energy development. But bureaucratic roadblocks at the federal level—like overregulation, endless environmental reviews, tax hikes and permitting delays—could halt new development in its tracks.

America's leaders should be smart enough not to squander this opportunity. That's why the Chamber is pushing for expanded American energy development in any "big deal" Congress strikes to address the fiscal cliff and our long-term economic challenges. It's our single greatest opportunity for progress and agreement. We must also continue to make renewables and alternative energy technologies more competitive while furthering our strides in efficiency.

Yes, America has plenty to be thankful for. We've got all the elements to usher in a new era of energy abundance—natural resources, technology, workforce, capital and an entrepreneurial spirit. Now, let's adopt an agenda that reflects it.

Thomas J. Donohue is the president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

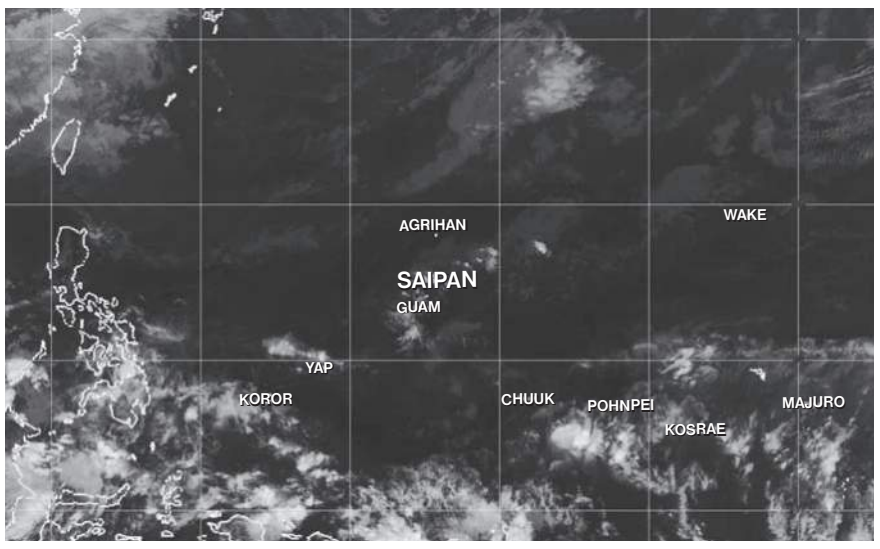
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲45	▼26
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲76	▼67
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼70
London	Showers	▲49	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲80	▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼55
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼37
Osaka	Showers	▲59	▼49
Paris	Showers	▲49	▼40
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼37
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲49	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲43	▼28
Tokyo	Showers	▲56	▼47
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southeast winds associated with low pressure just north of Okinawa are causing cloudiness and patchy rain north of a line from 23N130E to 25N136E. A weak shear line extends southwestward from 25N160E across the far Northern Mariana Islands to end near 14N130E. Cloudiness and widely scattered showers are along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough near Koror runs from 7N134E to 8N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 75 miles of the trough axis. Another surface trough near Pohnpei runs from 7N158E to 11N156E and scattered showers are within 100 miles of this trough axis. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E to 3N134E then southeastward to EQ141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are along and south of the trough axis. A weak circulation is south of Pohnpei near 2N160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of a line from 3N153E to 3N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
3:53 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:22 PM	12:56 AM
Friday	2:01 PM	1:46 AM
Saturday	2:40 PM	2:35 AM
Sunday	3:20 PM	3:23 AM
Monday	4:01 PM	4:12 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

National Red Ribbon Week contest voting now live

The National Family Partnership said that online voting is now live for the national contest for its 27th annual Red Ribbon Week, until 11:59pm (EST) Saturday, Nov. 24. This year, families across America can vote online and help promote awareness in their communities.

Here's how families entered the national contest by decorating the front of their homes with this year's message: "The Best Me Is Drug Free":

■ Students brought the Red Ribbon Week® message home by working alongside parents to decorate their front door, mailbox, fence, etc. with this year's theme "The Best Me Is Drug Free."

■ They took a photo with their family and their Red Ribbon Week decoration, then uploaded it to www.redribbon.org/contest or to www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek.

Voting is now live! Contestants are asking family and friends in their communities and local schools to vote for their entries at www.redribbon.org/vote. Ten schools across the U.S. will each win $1,000, while 10 families will each win an iPad. Winners will be announced at events at their winning schools in December.

"Students once again took Red Ribbon Week's message of prevention home to their neighborhoods with this national contest," said the NFP's volunteer president Peggy Sapp. "By decorating their homes together with this year's Red Ribbon theme, families carried the message to their communities. Now during the online voting period, families can discuss prevention and awareness as they gather during the Thanksgiving Holiday."

The nation's oldest and largest drug prevention campaign reaches more than 80 million people nationwide. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS half-day session on Nov. 26

The Saipan Southern High School will have a half-day session on Nov. 26 as teachers will be at a Cluster Professional Development seminar. Students will be released at 1:05pm and the bus will pick up students at 1:05pm. Students will attend all their classes and lunch will be served. For more information contact the main office at 237-3710. ***(SSHS)***

CHCC CEO on *Marianas Agupa*

Marianas Agupa will feature Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta tomorrow, Nov. 24, 2012, between 10am and 10:30am, to speak about the hospital's status with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and its current financial standing. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa Facebook account via instant messaging). Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

DUI checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office. Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

Zoning deadline today on political signs, banners

The Zoning Office has set today, Nov. 23, 2012, as the deadline to remove all political signs and banners along roadways, within public or private properties. Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to $1,000 per day until the day the violation is corrected. For any questions or inquiries, call 234-9661 or visit the Zoning Office on the second floor of Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan. ***(Zoning)***

Military training on FDM

The U.S. military will be conducting exercises on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla on Nov. 29, from 12:30pm to 8:30pm, and on Nov. 30, from 9am to 12pm and 12pm to 8pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area on a 10-nautical-mile radius on all quadrants. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated. ***(EMO)***

MAFEA membership meeting, Thanksgiving party set

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects will be holding a General Membership Meeting on Nov. 25, 2012, Sunday, together with the celebration of "Thanksgiving Party" for the year 2012, at the Micro Beach Pavilion from 11am onwards.

All Mafeans or interested engineers are invited to come and be a part of the association's activity. For more information, contact Randy at 888-0899, Erik at 888-0898, Ruel at 285-8863, or Lito at 989-6191. ***(MAFEA)***

Happy Holidays!
Avoid the Holiday stress of decorating.
Fully decorated Christmas trees,
garlands, swags and centerpieces
available for RENT.
We decorate, deliver and set-up in your homes or offices.
Visit us to see our displays.
Open Monday thru Saturday | 9:00am -5:30pm
Design Florist
Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan
For more information, please call
235-1414 • 234-5593 or 235-8572
Make Your Selection Now!
While supplies last.

SCS
Saipan Computer Services
In appreciation of the support and patronage of the CNMI,
Saipan Computer Services and Ideal Signs announces the...
2012 Customer Appreciation Raffle
from November 19 to December 29, 2012
every $25 purchase entitles you to one (1) raffle ticket
to join in our RAFFLE DRAW on December 31, 2012
The more you purchase, the better your chances of winning!
Grand Prize:
HOME THEATER SHOWCASE
- 47" Full HD LED TV w/ Tru-Motion Technology
- Blu-Ray System
- 6 Wireless Surround Speakers
1st Prize:
NIKON D3100 Digital Still/Video SLR Camera
2nd Prize:
The New APPLE iPad w/ 9.7" Retina Display
3rd Prize:
ACER Aspire 10.1" Netbook Computer
4th Prize:
SONY Cybershot Digital Camera
5th Prize:
TOSHIBA 1-Terabyte Portable HDD
Other Prizes:
And LOTS of other exciting prizes!!!
IDEAL SIGNS
Call 234-9110 or visit us at Beach Rd, South Garapan, across the 13 Fisherman Monument for details
*** Some conditions/restrictions may apply ***
THANK YOU, CNMI!

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
PRICES EFFECTIVE OCT. 15, 2012
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4" – $0.65/pc 6" – $0.75/pc 8" – $0.85/pc
NEW PRICES EFFECTIVE ON DEC. 01, 2012
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4" – $0.78/pc 6" – $0.88/pc 8" – $0.98/pc
#4 REBAR $830.00/BUNDLE
#3,#5,#6,#7,#8 REBAR $840.00/ST MADE IN KOREA
THIN-SET MORTAR $7.80 JOINT COMPOUND $21.00 5 GAL.
ELECTRICAL PIPE 1/2" $2.40 | 3/4" $2.90
NEW ARRIVALS OF CERAMIC TILES 12"*12" $0.89/pc • 8"*12" $0.60/pc
CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 • 3/4" $26.00 • 1" $35.00
OTHERS
CEMENT $7.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN–$3.00/BAG
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $19.50/GAL | $79.99/PAIL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $17.50/GAL | $69.50/PAIL
WIRE MESH 7'*50' $73.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100' $136.00
U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $7.50
2X4X20 TREATED: $14.50
UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR
2X4X12... $3.95 2X6X14... $7.60
2X4X14... $4.95 2X6X16... $8.90
2X4X16... $5.70 2X6X18... $9.90
2X6X12... $6.70 2X6X20... $10.90
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

Despite challenges, NMI still has a lot to be thankful for

No government shutdown, restoration of 80 work hours, the absence of major calamities, wonderful families, friends, and beautiful islands are but some of the many things that people of the CNMI are thankful for.

Leticia Ngewakl, 7, said she's thankful for her family and God.

"I thank them for all the blessings I get," the Garapan Elementary School student said.

Her mother, Elsie Ngewakl, said that despite the financial challenges, her family is still happy with what they have. Her family shared a Thanksgiving meal yesterday that she said they prepared for.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in their Thanksgiving Day message, said: "Despite the challenges and opportunities of throughout the year, Thanksgiving Day is a special time to give thanks for all the goodness we have received."

"It is also time to reflect on all our graces and to ask for guidance to face the challenges that lie ahead. We also pray for the safe return of our troops and the protection of our citizens from forces that wish us harm," they said.

Fitial and Inos said as people come together with friends and family this holiday season, they should also pause for a moment to remember to give thanks "for the good fortunes and freedoms we enjoy."

"And let us not forget those who are less fortunate here and afar as well as those who find themselves away from the comfort of families. To all the residents of the CNMI, we wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving," they added.

Josefa Salas, 19, said this will be her first Thanksgiving after coming back from Kansas for years, to be "reunited with my family."

"I am thankful I am reunited with my family," the Kagman 3 resident said.

Rosemarie Robediso, 45, said she's thankful for her children who have now finished college or at the top of their classes.

"My hard work paid off. I want the best for my children," the Chalan Kanoa resident said. She said one of her daughter finished nursing and her other child is at the top of her class.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said he is "thankful for the gifts of life, family, my awesome children, and friends."

"In a very special way, I wish to share this day with every member of the U.S. armed forces who afford us all the great opportunity to live in a society of freedom, liberty, and justice. I can never thank them enough for the sacrifices they make for all of us," he added. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Biba komplianos para i mas ma'gas yan mas uniku na Aguas as Vincelee Henry Franklin Jr. II B. Ada mas matungo'-na as "Beng" ni para u silebra i mina 5 na komplianos-na pagu na ha'ani. In guaiyahao neni. Ginen i familian Aguas yan Chaketa.

Humanities Council set to host lecture on US military strategy

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@yahoo.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting next week a presentation focusing on the nation's Asia-Pacific military strategy then and now and the important role of the Marianas region in it.

"America's Pacific Pivot: How we got here and what it means for the Marianas" will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 6pm to 9pm at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret.

The event will feature Dr. Richard Wyttenbach-Santos, a historian and former naval officer involved in military affairs in the Pacific since the 1970s; and Mark Calvo, special assistant to the Guam governor and retired army officer acting as the military buildup director for Guam.

Council executive director Scott Russell said the knowledge of the two speakers would provide information about the Pacific Pivot.

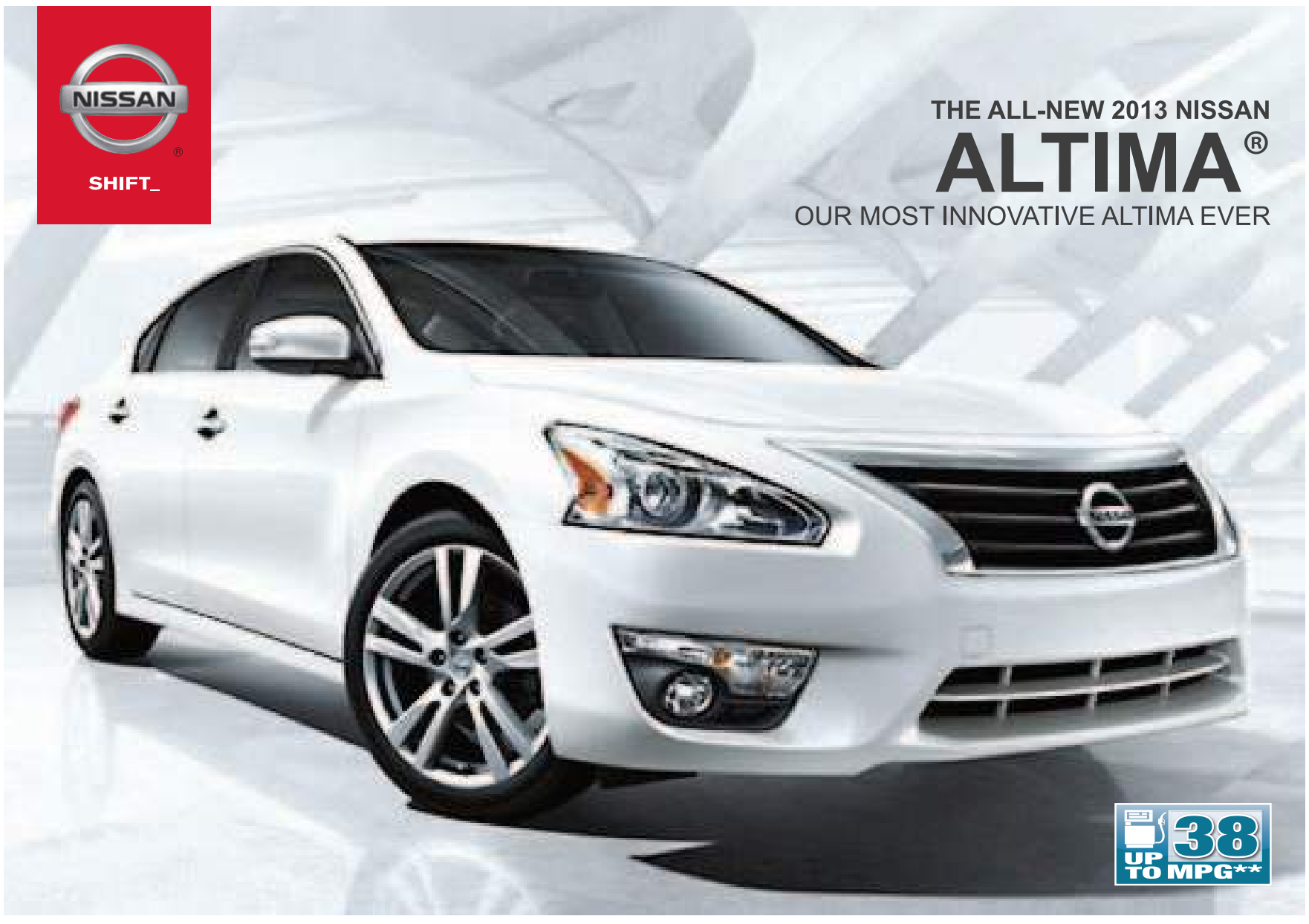
"The decision to focus on this topic was made because of its relevance to the CNMI and Guam, along with the rest of the Pacific. The American strategic shift to the Pacific will have significant implications in a number of areas including economic, social, and diplomatic/political," Russell told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tickets to the event cost $25 per person, and include hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine.

Russell noted that Wednesday's lecture is a fundraising event, with all proceeds to be used to support the Council's future humanities programs and initiatives, including an upcoming history research workshop for high school students.

The workshop, intended to provide students with the skills needed to conceive and conduct historical research relating to the Northern Marianas, will be facilitated by Dr. Anne Hattori, a history professor from the University of Guam.

To buy tickets or for more information, call 235-4785.



JUST ARRIVED!
From the New Altima's New Advance Drive-Assist to its Zero-Gravity Seats. The Altima is just a Push Button Start away from pure enjoyment. We didn't just update the Altima, we changed everything about it. All for you.
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

NMI Red Cross volunteers help victims at home and abroad

As Hurricane Sandy made landfall on the East Coast of the U.S. mainland, preparations were underway to get volunteers out on assignment to help with relief efforts. Although the severity of the damage was yet to be determined, it was evident that New York and New Jersey would need a great deal of help as they are one of the most densely populated areas in the U.S.

A call out was made to volunteers to go out on assignment. Veteran Red Cross volunteer and retired educator Joe Jetnil responded to the call and was ready to fly out with just a 12-hour window before departure. Jetnil is no stranger to disaster relief missions as he has taken part in several deployments in the past, including the Sept. 11 attacks and the California wild fires. Assigned to New Jersey, Jetnil's role as a supervisor for Mass Care involves distributing items to victims throughout the area. Jetnil is scheduled to return from his three-week assignment this weekend.

Another senior volunteer, Claudina Atalig, also responded to the call for help. A longtime employee of PHI Pharmacy, Atalig devotes much of her time to helping out with the Red Cross and other voluntary organizations. Atalig recognized her employer for being extremely supportive of her desire to help the community at home and abroad. She said that Bruce Cohen of PHI is very encouraging and accommodating, allowing her to go out on assignment and to make a difference.

"I have been so fortunate that the company I work for believes in the value of giving back to the community, and without their help and support, I would never be able to do what I do for the Red Cross" said Atalig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, volunteers Alex from Alaska, Kaye from Pennsylvania, Client Dwight, Denise-Disaster Mental Health, Claudine Atalig, NMI Chapter volunteer, Elaine-DMH, and Bridget from Florida in the Wyndom Hotel.

Atalig is currently keeping a journal of her experiences in New Jersey. She recounts that aside from the bone-chilling weather, they have made significant headway with assisting clients in her assigned area.

"Family services have been sending my team and other teams to the warehouse to assemble supplies and do bulk distribution. Today, I went out and did bulk distribution in South River-16 pallets of supplies. Back-breaking I tell you," she said. "Tomorrow, I'll be at Tinton Falls to do distribution...that's if the game does not change by morning as it has these past few days."

Gilbert Muña, another longtime Red Cross volunteer, was also deployed to the New York area to assist with recovery efforts. This is Muña's first deployment and has been an eye-opening experience.

"I can't believe how bad it is out here," said Muña. "It is freezing and people are without power…these folks have it really bad here."

Muña has been assigned to many different areas from Coney Island to Queens. He will be on a three-week assignment and is expected to return the first week of December.

Here at home, volunteers have responded to a very different situation. A plane crash that occurred on Monday led to the activation of the Disaster Mental Health team composed of Janet McCullough, Lynn Corella, and Anne Erhard. Within minutes of notification, Red Cross staff and volunteers were on scene both at the airport and the hospital. The DMH team did a fantastic job providing emotional care and support to the survivors, families, and coworkers of the crash. On Monday, the day of the incident, DMH volunteers worked a 12-hour shift together with Commonwealth Health Center social workers to help address the needs of the victims.

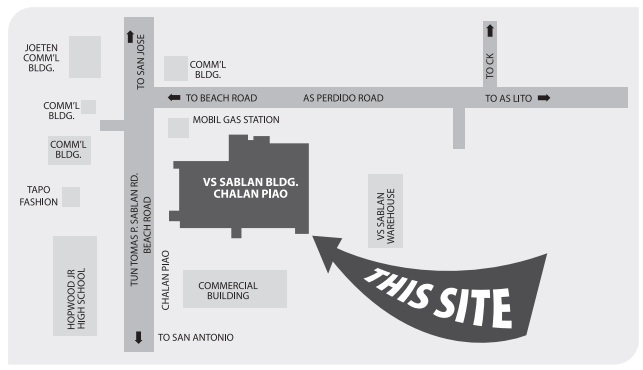
The Red Cross also met with hospital staff, the Marianas Visitors Authority, tour agents, and other key players to assist with emotional care and support of the victims and their families. ARC provided cots and beddings for inbound family members should they choose to stay at the hospital. Other arrangements are being made to help bring comfort to the victims as they receive treatment at CHC. All efforts are being made to ensure that cultural accommodations and considerations are addressed accordingly.

The DMH team continued providing services on Tuesday to the victims as well. On Wednesday, the DMH team will be visiting with Commonwealth Ports Authority's ARFF personnel to help address any needs they may have as a result of their experience.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, the Red Cross would like to extend heartfelt and sincere thanks to the many volunteers and donors who give up their valuable time and resources to help those in need! The services provided by the Red Cross are only possible because of the generosity of volunteers and donors that continue to support the cause.

Happy Thanksgiving CNMI from the Red Cross family! ***(ARC)***

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM

Checkout **OUR INDOOR BAZAAR VENDORS.**
They Have what you need at the Right Price.
House Plants, Orchids & Housewares, Clothing and Accessories on Sale Every Day
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, Morning Glory & KRM General Merchandise

Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa
Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free.**
Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.

Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings. 2nd Floor units Available at San Jose for **50 Cents per Square Foot**.

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

At our Chalan Piao Location – **3rd Floor Apartments for rent. 2 bedroom 1 full bath. With Refrigerator. 800 sq.ft. $350.00**

For Lease – **53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla**. Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease. Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.
– **3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay**. 44 years Remaining on Lease. Asking $25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

FOR SALE 1996 HATCHBACK CIVIC HONDA @ $4,500.00
49,000 Mileage Only, New Engine Overhaul/Transmission, A/C Good Condition.
Serious Inquirer please call Ben Sablan @ 671-898-2454.

TSC **Taro Sue Store**
Phone: (670) 234-5416/17 • Fax: (670) 235-5415

UP TO 30% OFF

Enviro Aire™
BE "GREEN" WITH ENVIRO AIRE

BLACK FRIDAY SALE
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (NOV. 23 & 24, 2012)

Items Pick for **Special Discount**

Electric Bike
~~Reg. Price: $689~~
NOW $344.50

Umbrella 40"
~~Regula Price: $9.95~~
NOW $1.95
Beach Umbrella 64"
~~Regula Price: $29.95~~
NOW $5.00

Kids Car Bed
~~Regula Price: $199~~
NOW $129

5 Layer Shelf
~~Regula Price: $139~~
NOW $79

Entertainment Shelf
~~Regula Price: $149~~
NOW $89

Tea Cart
~~Regula Price: $109~~
NOW $59

75% OFF 4 Season Frames (in any size)

10% OFF (Residential & Commercial AC) • 15% OFF (Bikes, Bike Parts, Refrigerator, Washer, Range, Beds & Mattress)

Located @ Commonwealth Drive, Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) next to Sugar King Park • Store Hours: 8:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday to Saturday

Soldiers, family members get pre-deployment brief

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Col. Michael Tougher, 1-294th Infantry Regiment commander, gives soldiers and their family members an update on the deployment, during family readiness briefings on Tuesday at the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Center. Eighteen soldiers with the battalion are from the CNMI.

Several hundred soldiers and family members of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment learned more about preparing for the unit's upcoming deployment during family readiness briefings conducted on Tuesday at the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Center.

About 600 soldiers are slated to deploy early next year as part of the battalion. Eighteen soldiers from the CNMI are part of the battalion and will be deploying with the unit.

The soldiers and family members were provided information on areas such as finances, mental health, veteran's benefits, health benefits under Tricare, and other support and services available for deploying servicemembers.

The family readiness briefs are designed to help the soldiers and family members learn how to maximize the benefits and services available to them while the soldier is on deployment.

The battalion's deployment is considered to be the largest reserve component mobilization in Guam. ***(PR)***

False distress call in Guam expends USCG resources

APRA HARBOR, Guam— Coast Guard Sector Guam received a distress call early Wednesday morning.

The radio call was received at approximately 7am by Coast Guard watchstanders in the Sector Guam Joint Rescue Sub Center. The call was a child's voice saying, "Mayday, mayday."

Prior to the caller making the distress call, the same voice was heard talking on Channel 16 for several minutes requesting food and saying hello to anyone who answered on the radio.

A SH-60 helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 was launched to investigate the call. No indications of distress were located during the search. Ultimately, the search was suspended at approximately 12pm, as a probable hoax.

"Every Mayday call received by the Coast Guard is treated as an actual distress case. Hoax calls needlessly tie up resources that are required to maintain a high state of readiness to respond to those who truly are in distress," said Lt. Cmdr. Morgan Roper.

Knowingly communicating a false distress or causing the Coast Guard to attempt to save lives and property when no help is needed is a felony. The penalties include prison time, criminal fines, civil fines and reimbursement to the Coast Guard for the ample costs incurred in responding to the false call.

Mariners and radio owners are encouraged to take steps to prevent the occurrence of fraudulent calls by removing radios or locking them up when not in use, teaching children appropriate use, and reporting suspected hoax callers to the Coast Guard at 671-564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

SPC assists countries with maritime boundary treaties, deep sea mining

NOUMEA, New Caledonia— The High Commissioner for Kiribati in Fiji, Retata Nikuata-Rimon, recently thanked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for assisting her atoll nation with its maritime boundaries, hydrographic nautical charts, and deep-sea mining.

On the latter, she said it was an area 'in which there is growing interest as it offers potential for social and economic development, although we must be cautious about the environmental impact."

Nikuata-Rimon made these comments at the 42nd Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations meeting, which was held at the SPC headquarters in Noumea from Nov. 12 to 16.

CRGA is a committee of SPC's governing body, the Conference of the Pacific Community, which meets every two years.

Earlier this year, at the Forum Leaders' meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, seven Pacific Island countries and territories—Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Marshall Islands, Tokelau, and Tuvalu—signed and exchanged a total of eight maritime boundary agreements.

In addition, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Nauru signed a trilateral treaty on the "Tri-Junction Point," a point where the exclusive economic zones of all three countries intersect.

SPC's Applied Geoscience and Technology Division supported the countries in the determination of the agreed boundaries, working collaboratively with members and with support from SPC's Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division and the Forum Fisheries Agency.

Agreement on boundaries has taken many years of work, often involving sensitive negotiations between members. The signing of these treaties has brought to just under 30 the total number of treaties concluded out of a total of 48 boundaries.

The signed agreements on these boundaries and zones under domestic and international law, as set out in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, has now provided these countries with the foundation for improved governance, protection, conservation, and management of resources within national jurisdictions.

The new treaties will allow for more legal and jurisdictional certainty and provide an accurate and secure basis for the management of the Pacific Ocean space, including fishing activity, marine environmental protection, marine research, and management and exploration of natural resources such as deep-sea minerals.

With funding support from the European Union, SPC developed a regional legislative and regulatory framework for deep-sea minerals this year, which comes at a critical juncture as Pacific Island countries and territories show growing interest in the potential for deep-sea mining.

The framework provides a guide that will assist PICTs in developing national legislation and considering associated policy and developmental issues, should they wish to engage in deep-sea mineral exploration within their exclusive economic zones.

Many countries in the region currently do not have national legislation to deal with deep-sea mineral exploration and the framework addresses this gap. ***(SPC)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO ALL SECTION 8 HCV APPLICANTS

(November 19, 2012)

Every six months, as needed, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is required to obtain current information interested Section 8 applicants and to remove applicants who are no longer interested in participating in the program or who fail to respond to a written request to update the information on their applications.

For this reason, and in accordance with Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of NMHC's Revised Administrative Plan (2007), this is to respectfully inform all Section 8 housing choice voucher program applicants that written notices will be mailed out to every applicant listed on the program's waiting list. Upon receipt of a written notice, applicants are requested and required to contact NMHC at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 2349447 or via email at housingdiv@nmhc.gov.mp.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to Kimo Rosario or Bryan Bocago at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at any of the aforementioned telephone numbers or via email at phdmanager@nmhc.gov.net and bsbocago@nmhc.gov.mp, respectively.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. Thursday, October 25, 2012 – Regular Board Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
a. LIHTC Programs
i. Isa Villas, LLC
ii. Blue Water Homes, LLC
b. Tenant-Based Voucher – Project Based Voucher Conversion
c. HOME Loans for Review and Approval
d. Marianas Medical Referral Center

IV. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
a. Rota Field Office
b. Tinian Field Office

V. FISCAL AFFAIRS
a. Unaudited Financial Statements as of September 30, 2012

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 501399, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail Address: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481 • Fax: (670) 322-7812

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 MID-TERM ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed campaign statement of account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Business

Economy makes for tougher Thanksgiving journeys

CHICAGO (AP)—Millions of Americans piled their families into cars, hopped on buses and waited out delays at airports Wednesday as they set off on Thanksgiving treks that many said required financial sacrifice, help from relatives to come up with airfare and hours searching online for deals.

Accepting that the road out of the recession will be long, many said they've become savvier or at least hardier travelers—resilient enough to brave a day-long drive with the kids or a long haul by bus instead of flying. Others adjusted their travel schedules to try to save money, flying on less popular days or to airports that were a bit farther from their destination.

The weather, along with the economy, handed setbacks to some. Heavy fog shrouded Chicago, causing more than 1,600 delays or cancellations in and out of its two airports and sending ripples around the nation.

And at New York City's Penn Station, a power failure in a switching system halted all trains for more than an hour at the height of the evening commute. It caused delays of 90 minutes or more on Amtrak and two of the nation's busiest commuter railroads.

The effects of Superstorm Sandy added to the hassle for travelers on the East Coast.

Chris McLaughlin, a 22-year-old senior at Boston College from West Chester, Penn., had hoped to combine his trip home for Thanksgiving with a medical school interview in Philadelphia, but the storm delayed his interview, so he'll have to make an extra trip home next month. He figured that would cost him another $200.

"It killed me," McLaughlin said of the financial impact of the storm, which also left his parents without power for eight days. "I think we were feeling we could loosen up a little bit (financially), but with Sandy and everything that happened, (people) feel like they can't."

And it's not just family finances that are tighter. Airlines struggling to save on jet fuel and other expenses have cut the number of flights, leading to a jump in airfares. Those hitting the roads face high gas prices and rising tolls.

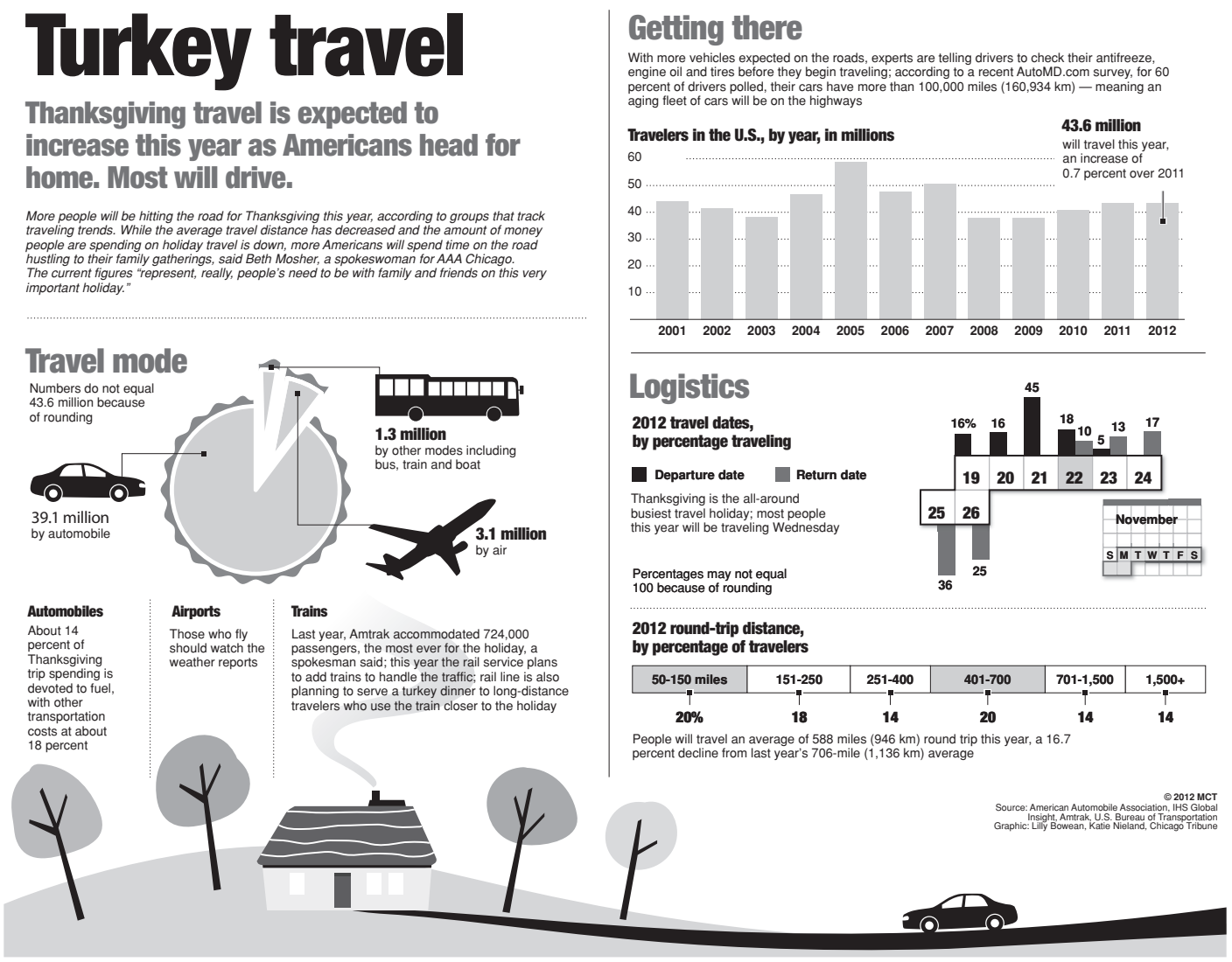
After a couple of years of healthy post-recession growth, Thanksgiving travel this year was expected to be up only slightly, 0.7 percent, from last year, according to AAA's yearly Thanksgiving travel analysis. Among the 43.6 million Americans expected to journey 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, more were driving and fewer were flying. Their planned trips were shorter too, by about 120 miles on average, the travel organization said.

As car ownership declines among younger Americans, many of those hitting the road were jumping onto buses. Intercity bus service has grown in recent years with curbside companies like Megabus.

At a Greyhound terminal in downtown Denver, Eileen Lindbuchler, a 32-year-old massage therapist, hauled her bulky massage table through the line to board a bus. She had used her iPhone to coordinate bus schedules and connecting routes for the 65-mile journey to visit family in Colorado Springs and expected the effort to save her money.

"I think it's going to be a lot cheaper," she said. "I want to see how it works. I've always had to travel by car."

Aided by smartphone apps, social media and other technology, consumers are getting better at sniffing out deals and realize they need to be flexible with dates and even the airports they chose when booking, said Courtney Scott, a senior editor at Travelocity.


Turkey travel
Thanksgiving travel is expected to increase this year as Americans head for home. Most will drive.
More people will be hitting the road for Thanksgiving this year, according to groups that track traveling trends. While the average travel distance has decreased and the amount of money people are spending on holiday travel is down, more Americans will spend time on the road hustling to their family gatherings, said Beth Mosher, a spokeswoman for AAA Chicago. The current figures "represent, really, people's need to be with family and friends on this very important holiday."
Travel mode
Numbers do not equal 43.6 million because of rounding
39.1 million by automobile
1.3 million by other modes including bus, train and boat
3.1 million by air
Automobiles
About 14 percent of Thanksgiving trip spending is devoted to fuel, with other transportation costs at about 18 percent
Airports
Those who fly should watch the weather reports
Trains
Last year, Amtrak accommodated 724,000 passengers, the most ever for the holiday, a spokesman said; this year the rail service plans to add trains to handle the traffic; rail line is also planning to serve a turkey dinner to long-distance travelers who use the train closer to the holiday
Getting there
With more vehicles expected on the roads, experts are telling drivers to check their antifreeze, engine oil and tires before they begin traveling; according to a recent AutoMD.com survey, for 60 percent of drivers polled, their cars have more than 100,000 miles (160,934 km) — meaning an aging fleet of cars will be on the highways
Travelers in the U.S., by year, in millions
60
50
40
30
20
10
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012
43.6 million will travel this year, an increase of 0.7 percent over 2011
Logistics
2012 travel dates, by percentage traveling
Departure date
Return date
Thanksgiving is the all-around busiest travel holiday; most people this year will be traveling Wednesday
Percentages may not equal 100 because of rounding
16% 16 45 18 10 5 13 17
19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26
36 25
November
S M T W T F S
2012 round-trip distance, by percentage of travelers
50-150 miles 151-250 251-400 401-700 701-1,500 1,500+
20% 18 14 20 14 14
People will travel an average of 588 miles (946 km) round trip this year, a 16.7 percent decline from last year's 706-mile (1,136 km) average
© 2012 MCT
Source: American Automobile Association, IHS Global Insight, Amtrak, U.S. Bureau of Transportation
Graphic: Lilly Bowean, Katie Nieland, Chicago Tribune

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Twinkie maker Hostess to close down, sell brands

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Twinkies, Ho Hos and Wonder Bread are up for sale now that a bankruptcy judge cleared the way for Hostess Brands Inc. to fire its 18,500 workers and wind down its operations. A last-ditch effort to end a strike with Hostess' bakers union failed Tuesday night and Judge Robert Drain on Wednesday approved the company's request to shut down its business and sell the pieces to the highest bidder. Hostess lawyers told Drain that they needed to begin the liquidation process quickly to take advantage of a surge in outside interest in its brands, which in addition to its namesake include Nature's Pride, Dolly Madison and Drake's. Hostess, based in Irving, Texas, also wanted to quickly shut down because it has been spending about $1 million a day in payroll without any income since it halted operations last week.

GM buying Ally assets in Europe and Latin America

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors said Wednesday that it will buy Ally Financial's operations in Europe, China and Latin America as it tries to build a global finance unit to make low-interest car loans and boost sales. The auto giant's U.S. loan business, GM Financial, will pay $4.25 billion for the Ally assets, helping GM to better compete in markets where other automakers already have their own loan operations. Automakers with their own finance arms often subsidize loans and leases to boost sales. The deal, which still must be approved by regulators, is expected to close in stages next year. Ally will get a $550 million premium over the book value of the assets, which was $3.7 billion in the third quarter, Ally said in a news release. Ally, which was GM's financial arm until it was taken over by the U.S. government in the 2008 banking industry meltdown, is selling off assets to raise money to repay the government for a $17.2 billion bailout. So far Ally has repaid $5.8 billion, leaving a balance of $11.4 billion. The company used to be called GMAC Financial Services.

Oil rises in Asia as China manufacturing improves

BANGKOK (AP)—The price of oil rose Thursday after preliminary data showed China's manufacturing activity expanded for the first time in 13 months, a positive sign for the global economy. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 17 cents to $87.55 per barrel at midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 63 cents to finish at $87.38 a barrel on Wednesday. Oil prices were responding to the release of HSBC Corp.'s monthly Purchasing Managers' Index for November, which showed a reading of 50.4 on a 100-point scale on which numbers over 50 indicate expansion. That was a moderate improvement from October's 49.5 and boosted hopes that the world's No. 2 economy was finally emerging from the deep slump it has been mired in since the 2008 financial crisis.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROVISION OF ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
RFQ13-GOV-008

702 CIP Project Managers

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Office of Capital Improvement (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting Statements of Qualifications from architect and engineers to provide project manager services for designated federally funded projects.

The Commonwealth has current needs for project manager services and is anticipating additional requirements during part of 2012 and 2013 fiscal year. Specific project assignments are dependent upon needs of the Commonwealth and may include oversight of: project planning; permitting; design; construction activities; and close-out.

Selected architects and engineers ("Project Managers") will be retained as independent contractors under the general supervision of the Contracting Officer or his designee. Project Managers will act as agent of the expenditure authority on assigned capital projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within: cost; time; and legal requirements; while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained on a one-year contract with an option to renew for an additional year at discretion of the Commonwealth.

Compensation for project manager services will be determined based on the required project management services for each assigned project. The Commonwealth will negotiate with selected Project Managers to determine the required scope of services for assigned responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected to serve as project managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project.

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work and submittal requirements ("Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements") at the Office of Capital Improvement Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4: 30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and Submittal Requirements.

Selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement& Supply, Procurement Regulations § 7070-30.3-305. Three copies of qualifications should be submitted to the Commonwealth Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 in a sealed envelope marked "Project Manager Qualifications RFQ13-GOV-008."

Qualifications must be received prior to 11AM ChST of December 03, 2012 ("Closing Date") from individuals or firms residing within the Commonwealth. Individuals or firms residing outside the Commonwealth may receive an additional five (5) work days from the Closing Date for receipt of their qualifications, upon filing a notice of intent to submit qualifications ("Notice of Intent") with the Division of Procurement & Supply by 11AM ChST December 10, 2012.

Notice of Intent may be transmitted in any of the following forms: direct delivery; transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515; or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com; however, the individual or firm transmitting a Notice of Intent bears all risk of proper functioning of equipment. For proposers located outside the CNMI who have filed a Notice of Intent, all required documents must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of the foreign country no later than the Closing Date and must be received no later than five calendar days after the Closing Date.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following factors:
1. Past experience as a project manager – 70%
2. Interview – 30%
Interviews will be conducted with the individuals who are determined to have the most appropriate qualifications for the needs of the Commonwealth. Architect and engineering firms may submit qualifications, however, they must identify qualifications of specific individuals who are to be considered for the provision of these services and evaluation of qualifications will be based on the experience, references, and interview of the designated individual.

This project is funded through grants from the United States Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) with local matching funds. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the government. All submitted documents shall become the property of the Commonwealth.

Nation

Obama pardons Thanksgiving turkey

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama pardoned two turkeys in an annual Thanksgiving rite on Wednesday, saying he wanted to offer the birds a second chance.

"They say life is all about second chances, and this November I couldn't agree more with that sentiment," a smiling Obama said in one of several lighthearted references to his re-election this month to a second term.

Cobbler, the newly designated national turkey, and his alternate, Gobbler, received a reprieve.

"The American people have spoken, and these birds are moving forward!" Obama said in a reference to his campaign slogan of "Forward."

Obama noted that Cobbler and Gobbler were selected by the American people, who cast their votes for the national Thanksgiving turkey on the White House Facebook page.

"Once again, Nate Silver completely nailed it," Obama said, referring to the New York Times blogger who correctly predicted the president's decisive victory in the Electoral College.

Accompanied by daughters Sasha and Malia, Obama waved his hand over Cobbler in a vaguely religious "dispensation," then laughed as the bird gobbled loudly. Obama and Sasha petted the turkey. Malia did not.

"Congratulations, Cobbler. You're going to have a great life," Obama said.

The 19-week-old, 40-pound turkeys are from Rockingham County, Va. They will live at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, along with last year's birds, Liberty and Peace.

Thanks to the American people, "the only cobbler anyone's eating this Thanksgiving will come with a side of ice cream," Obama said.

On a more serious note, Obama asked Americans to remember those in the Northeast who lost their homes, possessions and loved ones to Superstorm Sandy. Obama, who toured New York and New Jersey after the storm, said he has seen much destruction, "but I have yet to find a broken spirit."

Later the Obamas and the president's mother-in-law, Marian Robinson, went to the Capital Area Food Bank where they distributed sweet potatoes, carrots and other vegetables to those in need, including a group of children wearing bright yellow vests identifying them as part of the ECS youth program. Michelle Obama's brother, Craig Robinson, who coaches the Oregon State University men's basketball team, joined them, along with several team members.

President John F. Kennedy spared a Thanksgiving turkey in 1963, but the practice did not become a formal White House tradition until President George H.W. Bush granted a "presidential pardon" to a turkey in 1989.

AP

President Barack Obama, with daughters Sasha, center, and Malia, right, carries on the Thanksgiving tradition of saving a turkey from the dinner table with a "presidential pardon" at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

Internal emails offer details on bin Laden burial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Internal emails among U.S. military officers indicate that no sailors watched Osama bin Laden's burial at sea from the USS Carl Vinson and traditional Islamic procedures were followed during the ceremony.

The emails, obtained by The Associated Press through the Freedom of Information Act, are heavily blacked out, but are the first public disclosure of government information about the al-Qaida leader's death. The emails were released Wednesday by the Defense Department.

Bin Laden was killed on May 1, 2011, by a Navy SEAL team that assaulted his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

One email stamped secret and sent on May 2 by a senior Navy officer briefly describes how bin Laden's body was washed, wrapped in a white sheet, and then placed in a weighted bag.

According to another message from the Vinson's public affairs officer, only a small group of the ship's leadership was informed of the burial.

"Traditional procedures for Islamic burial was followed," the May 2 email from Rear Adm. Charles Gaouette reads. "The deceased's body was washed (ablution) then placed in a white sheet. The body was placed in a weighted bag. A military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker. After the words were complete, the body was placed on a prepared flat board, tipped up, whereupon the deceased's body slid into the sea."

The email also included a cryptic reference to the intense secrecy surrounding the mission. "The paucity of documentary evidence in our possession is a reflection of the emphasis placed on operational security during the execution of this phase of the operation," Gaouette's message reads. Recipients of the email included Adm. Mike Mullen, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. James Mattis, the top officer at U.S. Central Command. Mullen retired from the military in September 2011.

Earlier, Gaouette, then the deputy commander of the Navy's Fifth Fleet, and another officer used code words to discuss whether the helicopters carrying the SEALs and bin Laden's body had arrived on the Vinson.

"Any news on the package for us?" he asked Rear Adm. Samuel Perez, commander of the carrier strike group that included the Vinson.

Study finds mammograms lead to unneeded treatment

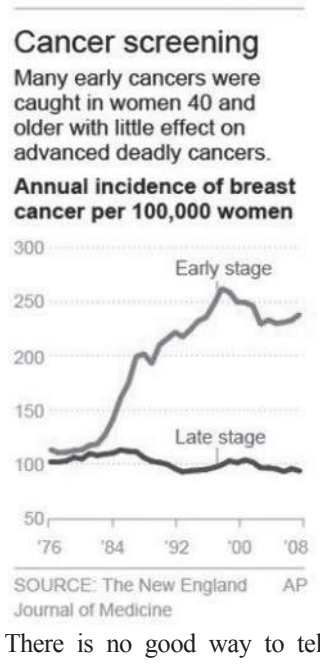
By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Mammograms have done surprisingly little to catch deadly breast cancers before they spread, a big U.S. study finds. At the same time, more than a million women have been treated for cancers that never would have threatened their lives, researchers estimate.

Up to one-third of breast cancers, or 50,000 to 70,000 cases a year, don't need treatment, the study suggests.

It's the most detailed look yet at overtreatment of breast cancer, and it adds fresh evidence that screening is not as helpful as many women believe. Mammograms are still worthwhile, because they do catch some deadly cancers and save lives, doctors stress. And some of them disagree with conclusions the new study reached.

But it spotlights a reality that is tough for many Americans to accept: Some abnormalities that doctors call "cancer" are not a health threat or truly malignant.



There is no good way to tell which ones are, so many women wind up getting treatments like surgery and chemotherapy that they don't really need.

Men have heard a similar message about PSA tests to screen for slow-growing prostate cancer, but it's relatively new to the debate over breast cancer screening.

Rep. Jackson Jr. resigns, citing mental health

CHICAGO (AP)—Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. quietly resigned Wednesday, effectively ending a once-promising political career months after the civil rights icon's son went on a mysterious medical leave while facing separate federal investigations.

Just two weeks after voters re-elected him to a ninth full term, Jackson sent his resignation letter to House Speaker John Boehner, citing his ongoing treatment for bipolar disorder and admitting "my share of mistakes."

The House Ethics Committee is investigating his dealings with imprisoned ex-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and for the first time Jackson publicly acknowledged reports of a new federal probe believed to be looking into his possible misuse of campaign money.

"I am aware of the ongoing federal investigation into my activities and I am doing my best to address the situation responsibly, cooperate with the investigators, and accept responsibility for my mistakes," he wrote, adding "they are my mistakes and mine alone."

Jackson, 47, disappeared in June, and it was later revealed that he was being treated at the Mayo Clinic for bipolar disorder and gastrointestinal issues. He returned to his Washington home in September but went back to the clinic the next month, with his father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, saying his son had not yet "regained his balance."

On Wednesday night, Jackson told reporters that his son resigned because he did not believe he could continue with his political career and try to regain his health at the same time.

"He made the decision to choose his health," said Jackson.

The elder Jackson said that his son had wanted to hold a news conference to discuss his decision to step down but did not believe he could do so without "breaking down."

He also said there is no way of knowing how long it will take for his son to recover from what he characterized as an "internal unresolved challenge."

"It's not the kind of illness you can put a timetable on," Jackson said, adding that he is confident that his son "will get well in time."

Jesse Jackson Jr. first took office in 1995 after winning a special election in a largely urban and Democratic district and began his career in Washington with a star power and pedigree that set him apart from his hundreds of other House colleagues.

But despite high expectations, he largely went unnoticed as a policymaker. Instead, he gained a reputation for quixotic pursuits such as trying to impeach President George W. Bush and push through constitutional amendments that had no chance.

He attended an elite private school in Washington and earned a law degree and a master's in theology. Over the years he bragged about spending his 21st birthday in jail after being arrested in an anti-apartheid protest, co-authored books with his father and developed his own a charismatic speaking style, with near perfect diction and often punctuated by finger pointing.

Asia

Pakistan: Malala's wounded friends back in school

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—For one month the dreams kept coming. The voice, the shots, the blood. Her friend Malala slumped over.

Shazia Ramazan, 13, who was wounded by the same Taliban gunman who shot her friend Malala Yousufzai, returned home last week after a month in a hospital, where she had to relearn how to use her left arm and hand. Memories of the Taliban bullets that ripped into her remain, but she is welcoming the future.

"For a long time it seemed fear was in my heart. I couldn't stop it," she said. "But now I am not afraid," she added, self-consciously rubbing her left hand where a bullet pierced straight through just below the thumb.

Now Shazia and her friend Kainat Riaz, who was also shot, return to school for the first time since the Oct. 8 attack when a Taliban gunman opened fire on Malala outside the Khushal School for Girls, wounding Shazia and Kainat in the frenzy of bullets.

The Taliban targeted Malala because of her outspoken and relentless objection to the group's regressive interpretation of Islam that keeps women at home and bars girls from school.

Malala is still undergoing treatment and unable to come back. But among her friends in her hometown of Mingora in the idyllic Swat Valley, she is a hero.

"Malala was very brave and she was always friendly with everyone. We are proud of her," said the 16-year-old Kainat, wrapped in a large purple shawl and sitting on a traditional rope bed. Her mother Manawar, a health worker, sat by her side, praised her daughter's bravery and with a smile said: "She gets her courage from me." Although conservative and refusing to have her picture taken, Kainat's mother slammed attacks on girls' education and warned Pakistan will fail if girls are not educated.

Quick to laugh, Kainat—who comes from a long line of educators in her family—looked forward to returning to school. "I want to study. I am not afraid," she said.

The authorities however are not taking any chances. Armed policemen have been deployed to both Shazia's and Kainat's home and will escort them both to school.

Kainat's home is hidden behind high walls with 8- foot-high steel gates, tucked away in a neighborhood of brown square cement buildings. A foul smelling sewer runs the length of the street where armed policemen patrol, eyeing everyone suspiciously.

AP

In this Nov. 15, 2012 photo, a young girl reaches out to greet a Pakistani policeman securing the road outside Kainat Riaz's home in Mingora, Swat Valley, Pakistan.

ASIA BRIEFS

Taliban suicide bomber kills 23 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Taliban suicide bomber struck a Shiite Muslim procession near Pakistan's capital, killing 23 people in the latest of a series of bombings targeting Shiites during the holiest month of the year for the sect, officials said Thursday. The bomber attacked the procession around midnight Wednesday in the city of Rawalpindi, located next to the capital, Islamabad, said Deeba Shahnaz, a state rescue official. At least 62 people were wounded by the blast, including six policemen. Eight of the dead and wounded were children, said Shahnaz. Police tried to stop and search the bomber as he attempted to join the procession, but he ran past them and detonated his explosives, said senior police official Haseeb Shah. The attacker was also carrying grenades, some of which exploded, said Shah.

PH Senate OK of new tobacco taxes cheered

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials and health advocates on Wednesday welcomed the Senate's approval of a "sin tax" bill after years of unsuccessful attempts to hike taxes on tobacco and alcohol. The higher taxes are expected to raise at least 40 billion pesos ($1 billion) annually and help pay for better public health care. The Senate approved the bill late Tuesday, bringing it closer to becoming law after 15 years of failed attempts to pass such legislation. President Benigno Aquino III had certified the bill as urgent. The Senate bill will have to be reconciled with a version passed by the lower house. Sen. Franklin Drilon, a proponent of the bill, said a version acceptable to both houses may be ready before the end of the year. Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the measure will bring taxes closer to levels recommended by the World Health Organization and World Bank.

Dark side of thriving China: 5 kids die in trash

BEIJING (AP)—On the day China unveiled its new leadership in Beijing with promises of a better life for all, five runaway boys died in a garbage bin where they had sought shelter and warmth on a cold, damp night in the south.

The boys were all brothers or cousins aged 9 to 13. Surnamed Tao, they were the sons of three brothers—two of whom are migrant workers with jobs far from home—and most of them lived largely unsupervised in the care of their blind grandmother.

They had been missing for more than a week when, police say, they lit a fire to stay warm on the night of Nov. 15 in the southern city of Bijie and died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

As details of the tragedy emerged this week, it touched off the country's latest soul-searching about social responsibility. It renewed concern over the "left-behind" rural children who often stay with grandparents while parents seek work in thriving coastal cities, and the failure of the country's social services to adequately care for them.

"Though you departed from us in a garbage bin, you are not garbage," children's book author Zheng Yuanjie wrote in his microblog, adding that the fault lies with "adults who failed their responsibilities."

Questions have been raised about how the children—found about 25 kilometers (15 miles) from their home village of Caqiangyan—could have gone missing for 10 days without more of an effort launched to find them. Six local officials, including two school principals, were sacked on Tuesday.

"We have failed in our management work," said Tang Guangxing, a spokesman for Bijie city, where the boys' bodies were found last Friday. "Our work was not attentive enough."

State media outlets, giving the deaths broad coverage, have joined in the hand-wringing.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPL-006

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE PROPOSER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON S. SALAS
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPW/ED-035

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 27, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT ENERGY STAR RATED COMPACT FLORESCENT LAMS (CFL's) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETE BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE (EECBG), LOCATED AT SPRINGS PLAZA DEVELOPMENT BUILDING ALONG CHALAN PALE ARNOLD HIGHWAY, SAIPAN OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **clfs@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFRERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **DECEMBER 11, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M.**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO clfs@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **DECEMBER 14, 2012**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	]	
	]	
LESLIE SALAS DEBRUM,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0273**
Deceased.	]	

NOTICE OF HEARING / NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Date: December 18, 2012
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Ida S. DeBrum, has filed a petition for letters of administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob..

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **December 18, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 223, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to F. Matthew Smith at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 7th day of November, 2012.

/s/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioner

JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of	]	
	]	
TOSHIICHI KASE,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0264**
Deceased.	]	

NOTICE OF HEARING / NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Petitioner Commonwealth Development Authority has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration in the above-entitled action.

A HEARING on the Petition for Letters of Administration will be conducted by the Court on **December 18, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 223, CNMI Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order appointing Beverly Yoshie Santos Kase, as Administratrix should not be made.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 21 and 11 of the Commonwealth Rules of Probate, to all creditors of the decedent or his estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Beverly Yoshie Santos Kase at 9100 Lakewood Dr., SW Apartment G-202, Lakewood, WA 98499. Reference is hereby made to the Petition for Letters of Administration for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 9th day of September, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Holiday
SPECIAL!

BANK OF SAIPAN

TINIAN & ROTA PROPERTIES FOR SALE

- **100% FINANCING**
- **0% INTEREST RATE**
- **ZERO POINTS**

Saipan properties also available at affordable prices and reasonable rates and terms

Some conditions apply, call Loans Department at (670) 235-6260 for more details.

World

Cease-fire begins between Israel and Hamas

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—A cease-fire agreement between Israel and the Gaza Strip's Hamas rulers took effect Wednesday night, bringing an end to eight days of the fiercest fighting in years and possibly signaling a new era of relations between the bitter enemies.

The Egyptian-sponsored deal delivered key achievements for all involved. It promised to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks on southern Israel and ease border closings that have stifled Gaza's economy, and it affirmed the emergence of Egypt's new Islamist government as a key player in a changing region. But vague language in the agreement and deep hostility between the combatants made it far from certain that the bloodshed would end.

News of the truce, announced in Cairo and reached after furious diplomacy that drew in U.S., U.N., European and regional diplomats, set off ecstatic celebrations in Gaza, where thousands poured into the streets, firing guns into the air, honking horns and waving Palestinian, Hamas and Egyptian flags.

In Israel, small demonstrations were held in communities that were struck by rockets. Protesters said the military should have hit Hamas harder and some held signs demanding security and denouncing "agreements with terrorists."

Leaders on both sides used tough language as they prepared to engage in indirect negotiations on a future border arrangement through Egyptian mediators.

"I know there are citizens that expected a wider military operation and it could be that it will be needed. But at this time the right thing of the state of Israel is to take this opportunity to reach a continuous cease-fire," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

At a news conference in Cairo, the top Hamas leader in exile, Khaled Mashaal, claimed victory, saying the Israelis "failed in their adventure" and that Israel is "inevitably destined for defeat."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called it "a critical moment for the region."

"Egypt's new government is assuming the responsibility and leadership that has long made this country a cornerstone of regional stability and peace," Clinton said.

Israel launched its military offensive in Gaza on Nov. 14 in to halt months of renewed rocket fire from Gaza. In a first salvo, it assassinated the Hamas military chief, then bombarded more than 1,500 targets in eight days of airstrikes and artillery attacks. Palestinian militants led by Hamas showered Israel with more than 1,500 rockets, including longer-range weapons that reached as far as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The fighting killed 161 Palestinians, including 71 civilians, and forced hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the border to remain huddled indoors. Five Israelis were killed. It was the worst bloodshed since an Israeli invasion of Gaza four years ago that left hundreds dead.

Under the agreement, Egypt will play a key role in maintaining the peace. The U.S. also pledged engagement.

"In the days ahead, the United States will work with partners across the region to consolidate this progress, improve conditions for the people of Gaza, and provide security for the people of Israel," Clinton said at a joint news conference in Cairo with her Egyptian counterpart, Mohammed Kamel Amr.

By agreeing to the cease-fire, both Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers stepped back from the brink of what could have been a full-fledged war. Both had compelling reasons to accept the Egyptian deal, even though its outlines are vague.

Israel, which had massed thousands of troops along the Gaza border, was warned by its Western allies, including the U.S., against launching a ground offensive. Hamas would likely have lost popular support if Gazans had to endure another devastating military invasion.

Hours before the deal was announced, a bomb exploded on a bus in Tel Aviv near Israel's military headquarters, wounding 27 people and raising fears of a breakdown in the diplomacy. The blast, which left the bus charred and its windows blown out, was the first bombing in Tel Aviv since 2006. The bomb was placed inside the bus by a man who got off, said Yitzhak Aharonovich, Israel's minister of internal security. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack.

The deal calls for an immediate halt to "all hostilities," and after a 24-hour period of calm, talks will open on border arrangements. Gaza's Rafah border crossing with Egypt is expected to assume a central role in the talks. Largely limited to foot traffic, Hamas hopes to turn the crossing into a bustling trade zone.

The new negotiations will try to tackle some difficult issues. Israel will be seeking guarantees for a halt in weapons smuggling by Hamas. The Islamists want unrestricted movement and trade in and out of Gaza.

Israel imposed its blockade five years ago, after Hamas seized control of Gaza from the rival Fatah movement of President Mahmoud Abbas. Although the blockade has gradually been eased, key restrictions remain on exports, the entry of key raw materials, and the movement of people in and out of the area. These restrictions have ground Gaza's economy to a halt, fueling unemployment of more than 30 percent.

The negotiations will be laden with obstacles, and Egyptian mediators will be faced with tough-to-bridge positions by both sides. Hamas is likely to resist Israeli demands to demilitarize.

In his comments Wednesday, Mashaal boasted of the arsenal Hamas had amassed, both through a homegrown weapons industry and support from Iran, Israel's archenemy.

"We thank Iran for its support along with all the other nations that supported us," he said.

Mashaal said Hamas would demand a package that ends Gaza's isolation. "We talked about the crossings, and the freedom of movement and cargo," he said.

By brokering the truce, Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi emerged as a pivotal player in the new Middle East, which has been swept by Islamist fervor during the Arab Spring changes of the past two years. As the key sponsor of the deal, serving as a middleman in cases of truce violations, Morsi will continue to play a key role.

Israel-Gaza conflict

Nov. 10 Border clash wounds four Israeli soldiers; Gaza militants and Israel exchange rocket and shell fire

Nov. 11-12 Sporadic fire from Gaza into southern Israel wounds eight people; shelling and air raids by Israeli forces kill seven Palestinians, including four civilians

Nov. 13 Israel and Hamas send message via Egypt indicating interest in a truce

Nov. 14 Israeli missile strike kills Hamas' military commander and air raids and artillery barrages are directed across Gaza, as Palestinean officials pledge to end rocket attacks against Israel; Hamas and other groups fire at least four rockets at the southern city of Beersheba

Nov. 15 Two rockets fired at Tel Aviv in the first attack on Israel's commercial capital in two decades; rocket kills three Israelis north of the Gaza Strip; Israeli warplanes bomb targets in and around Gaza City, raising the Palestinian death toll to 16

Nov. 16 Dozens of rockets are fired into Israel, some targeting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem; officially in Gaza say 22 Palestinians have died in air attacks; Israel announces the call-up of reserves

Nov. 17 Israeli aircraft bomb Hamas government building in Gaza

Nov. 18 Israeli aerial and naval attacks hit militant targets in Gaza; in the latest cycle of violence, more than 500 rockets have been fired into Israel

Nov. 19 Israel bombs dozens of targets in Gaza, saying that while it is prepared to send in troops, it prefers a diplomatic solution; militants fire 135 rockets at southern Israel, causing no casualties; since last week, 107 Palestinians, more than half civilians and three Israelis have been killed

© 2012 MCT

Source: Reuters, Tribune Newspapers reporting Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Gaza deal seals major role for Egypt's president

CAIRO (AP)—The Gaza cease-fire deal reached Thursday marks a startling trajectory for Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi: an Islamist leader who refuses to talk to Israelis or even say the country's name mediated for it and finally turned himself into Israel's de facto protector.

The accord inserts Egypt to an unprecedented degree into the conflict between Israel and Hamas, establishing it as the arbiter ensuring that militant rocket fire into Israel stops and that Israel allows the opening of the long-blockaded Gaza Strip and stops its own attacks against Hamas.

In return, Morsi emerged as a major regional player. He won the trust of the United States and Israel, which once worried over the rise of an Islamist leader in Egypt but throughout the week-long Gaza crisis saw him as the figure most able to deliver a deal with Gaza's Hamas rulers.

"I want to thank President Morsi for his personal leadership to de-escalate the situation in Gaza and end the violence," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who met Morsi Thursday, said at a Cairo press conference with Egypt's foreign minister announcing the accord.

"This is a critical moment for the region. Egypt's new government is assuming the responsibility and leadership that has long made this country a cornerstone of regional stability and peace," she said.

After Israel launched its assault on Gaza a week ago, aimed at stopping militant rocket fire, Morsi's palace in a Cairo suburb became the Middle East's diplomacy central.

He held talks with Turkey's prime minister and the emir of Qatar, Germany's foreign minister and a host of top Arab officials to get them behind his mediation. An Israeli envoy flew secretly into Cairo for talks with Egyptian security officials, though Morsi did not meet or speak directly with any Israelis.

Throughout it all, Morsi and his aides sided openly with Hamas, accusing Israel of starting the assault and condemning its bombardment, which has killed more than 140 Palestinians. Five Israelis have been killed by Hamas rocket fire during the battle.

Morsi hails from the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's most powerful political group and Hamas' own parent organization. Brotherhood leaders, including Morsi, refuse to speak to Israeli officials. Morsi hasn't even said the name of the country publicly since he was inaugurated in late June, though he has referred to its people as "Israelis."

In ideology, the Brotherhood supports the use of force against Israel to liberate "Muslim lands." Only two months ago, Brotherhood supreme leader Mohammed Badie proclaimed that regaining Jerusalem can "only come through holy jihad." The group opposes Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syrian warplanes bomb Damascus suburbs

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian warplanes bombed Damascus suburbs and rebel-held areas in the country's north Wednesday as the government blasted the European Union for endorsing a newly formed opposition coalition. The raids struck several eastern suburbs of the Syrian capital and the strategic northern city of Maaret al-Numan, a key supply route linking Damascus and the commercial hub of Aleppo, said two activist groups. Both the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees also reported violence elsewhere in Syria. The state-run news agency SANA said the army continued its pursuit of "terrorists"—a government term for rebel fighters—in the Damascus suburb of Arbeen, inflicting casualties on the enemy. The report also said that attackers targeted a mosque in Daraya suburb. Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 with an uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime, inspired by other Arab Spring revolts. The crisis has since morphed into a civil war, with scores of rebel groups across the country fighting government troops. Nearly 40,000 people have been killed in the 20 months of unrest, according to activists.

Little sign of Libyan probe into consulate attack

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—After more than two months, Libya's investigation into the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi appears in limbo. Key security commanders and witnesses say they were never questioned. No suspects have been named, and gunmen seen participating in the assault walk freely in the eastern Libyan city. Hanging over the probe is a fear of reprisals from extremist militiamen. Farag al-Fazani, a young commander of a Libyan security force commissioned to protect the U.S. post at the time of the Sept. 11 attack, says he sees militants he recognizes from that chaotic night. They recognize him too. "I get death threats by phone (saying) you are an infidel and spilling your blood is permitted," said al-Fazani. "No one can protect me. I see them and they know me."

M23 rebels vow to take Congo, as troops defect

GOMA, Congo (AP)—Pressing ahead with their seizure of cities in mineral-rich eastern Congo, the M23 rebels said Wednesday they are fighting to control all of this sprawling country and to topple President Joseph Kabila's government. Following their capture of the strategic city of Goma a day earlier, the rebels took the nearby town of Sake on Wednesday as they moved toward the provincial capital of Bukavu. "Kabila has to go. We want our country back," said M23 Col. Vianney Kazarama to cheers from thousands gathered at the Goma stadium. "We are now going to Kinshasa. No one will divide this country." Nearly 3,000 Congolese army soldiers and police defected to the rebels in Goma on Wednesday and turned in their weapons at the stadium rally.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Missing cat found 6 days after Indianapolis blast

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A missing family cat has been rescued from the ruins of a home near the center of the deadly Indianapolis house explosion. Fire Capt. Rita Burris says the black cat named Gidget had been missing since the fiery blast late Saturday night. A federal investigator found Gidget on Friday hiding behind a couch in the home of her owners, Glenn and Gloria Olvey. Burris says the cat was scared but otherwise in good condition. The Olveys already had recovered their other three pets. The family lives next door to the house where the blast is believed to have originated. Glenn Olvey says the blast hurled him several feet and trapped him, his wife and one of their two teenage daughters when their roof collapsed.

Ecuador officials reject donkey as candidate

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—The demand of dozens of citizens has been denied in the Ecuadorean city of Guayaquil: There will be no jackass running for the legislature. At least 40 people paraded their candidate through the city's streets to the electoral council offices. Mr. Burro even wore a tie. But officials refused to even let them in the door on Thursday, even though backers had dummied up a mock voter registration card showing the candidate's photo superimposed on a man wearing a business suit. Donkey backer Daniel Molina told local television stations the goal was to call voters' attention to the seriousness of the February election, not to insult any party.

Swimmer's belly button ring gets caught on drain

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Firefighters in Colorado say a woman's belly button ring became entangled with a drain cover in a shallow splash pool but that she was freed without injury. Authorities say the woman became stuck Wednesday as she floated on her stomach with her child in a shallow pool at the Greeley Family Funplex. Firefighters tried to turn the ring to free her but then started to drain the pool while working to manipulate the ring. They said Thursday that she eventually was freed and she wasn't hurt in the process.

German police stop man with mobile office in car

BERLIN (AP)—Forget texting while driving. German police say they nabbed a driver who had wired his Ford station wagon with an entire mobile office. Saarland state police said Friday the 35-year-old man was pulled over for doing 130 kph (80 mph) in a 100 kph zone while passing a truck Monday. Built on a wooden frame on his passenger seat they found a laptop on a docking station tilted for easy driver access, a printer, router, wireless internet stick, WLAN antenna, and an inverter to power it all. A navigation system and cellphone mounted to the windshield completed the array. Since there was no evidence he used the office while moving, he got away with a (EURO)120 ($153) speeding ticket and a possible fine for having unsecured items in his car.

3 deer use automatic doors to enter Iowa store

CORALVILLE, Iowa (AP)—Shoppers in Iowa got an unusual glimpse of wildlife Monday morning when a doe and two fawns wandered into a department store. Coralville Police Chief Barry Bedford says the deer used doors that open automatically to get into a Kohl's store. He says the fawns stayed in the store's vestibule, but their mother made it into the store and headed toward the back. Police say employees opened up some back doors and the doe exited. The two fawns turned around and used the automatic exit doors to leave the store. No injuries or damage was reported.

Ohio drug defendant asks judge for 1 more joint

CINCINNATI (AP)—A judge's offer to allow an Ohio drug defendant the chance to stay out of prison if he'd give up marijuana might have just gone up in smoke. Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Melba Marsh says she was astonished by the response from 19-year-old Damaine Mitchell on Wednesday. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Thursday that Mitchell told the judge he likes smoking weed and staying off it so he could stay out of prison would be "a challenge." He told the judge he could try to quit but made a request: Could he "at least get one more joint in?" The judge quickly said no. She wants Mitchell back in court next week before she decides what to do with his trafficking case.

Maine TV news co-anchors quit on the air

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—Two news co-anchors for a Maine television station surprised viewers and colleagues by quitting on the air, later citing frustration with their management.

Cindy Michaels and Tony Consiglio announced their resignations at the end of Tuesday's 6 p.m. newscast on WVII.

The two didn't give specific reasons on the air for their sudden departure. Consiglio said that while they enjoyed reporting the news, "some recent developments have come to our attention, though, and departing together is the best alternative we can take."

Michaels said she and Consiglio were "are very sorry for having to say goodbye for now, but we'll still be around." She plans to pursue a writing career and paint, and Consiglio said he would continue his career "in a different capacity."

Their boss said Wednesday they had been on their way out the door anyway. He said he was not surprised by the action they took.

"Sometimes people leave before they're officially told to leave," said Mike Palmer, station vice president and general manager. He declined to discuss issues that may have caused disagreements but said, "There are things that they know."

Michaels, who was the station's news director, said in an email to The Associated Press that there was "a regular undoing of decisions made by me." She also questioned the station's treatment of political stories and said it did not consider news programming important enough.

WVII and another station Palmer manages, Fox affiliate WFVX, have made headlines before. In 2006, The New York Times reported that Palmer prohibited further stories on global warming after the stations reported from a movie theater where Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" was opening.

Michaels wrote she had "no clue" she was going to be let go.

She and Consiglio, she wrote, "were Bangor's longest running news team with more than six years on the news together. We wanted to be able to say a thoughtful, heart-felt good-bye to our viewers and to the many communities we served over the years. We did not defame the company in any way over the air. The goodbye was cordial, sincere and done with integrity."

The AP left messages with Consiglio. Both told the Bangor Daily News after their last newscast that they were frustrated with management and cited a dispute over journalistic practices.

Asked about reaction from viewers in the small market served by WVII, an ABC affiliate, Palmer said, "I have not heard from a single viewer."

But he said he had received about 20 applications for their jobs after posting them Tuesday night on an industry website.

"I've had people from all over the country send resumes and audition reels," Palmer said.

Australians find drugs worth $246M in steamroller

AP

This photo released by the Australian Federal Police shows a steamroller which was used to hide drugs by two men in Sydney, Australia, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian police seized 237 million Australian dollars ($246 million) worth of cocaine and methamphetamine found inside a steamroller shipped from China.

Australian Federal Police said Wednesday that they arrested a Canadian man and a U.S. man in Sydney after finding 350 kilograms (770 pounds) of cocaine and meth. The men were charged with importing drugs and face a maximum of life in prison if convicted.

It was the police agency's second major drug bust in a week. On Friday, police said officials had tracked down a boat carrying 200 kilograms (440 pounds) of cocaine to Australia after it ran aground in the small island nation of Tonga. A corpse was found on board. Officials are trying to determine the cause of death.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative and fully qualified cook who is passionate about food. Must have 3 years prior experience preferably in a hotel. Must have the ability to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the unit. Ability to relate to individuals from diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and to work with them in a fair, supportive and cooperative manner.

(1) Guest Relations Agent – China Market
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Must have 2 years prior experience in this field preferably in a hotel. Is responsive and genuine with guests and colleagues and confident with guest interactions. Able to read and write English and Mandarin Chinese. Can communicate alternative and positive solutions to problems and is adaptable and suitable to change. Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including holidays, week-ends and nights.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at our security guard office located on the South Wing. All applications must be submitted by the closing date November 30, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has a job opening for

Loss Prevention Agent
Full time position

The Loss Prevention Agent is directly accountable to the Loss Prevention Manager. Primary functions include but are not limited to the following.

- Detection and prevention of loss of company assets i.e., inventory, currency and proprietary information.
- Internal investigations of theft, fraud and violations of written company policy.
- Security Systems preventative maintenance for IDS, Access Control, CCTV, lock, keys.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably 1-year experience in the field of law enforcement or retail security/loss prevention.
- Preferably 5 years experience with IDS, Access Control and CCTV (PTZ, Matrix Switcher, DVR's) system installation, programming, maintenance and troubleshooting.
- Able to pass a security clearance and background investigation.
- Knowledge of federal and local laws.
- Knowledge of OHM's law, Basic AC/DC and ability to use a DMM
- Able to work with minimal supervision.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to work flexible hours / shifts including weekends, nights, holidays and be on-call for emergency response.
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and own transportation.

Prospective applicants will be subject to pre-employment drug test and will be required to submit police & Court clearance upon hiring.

DFS Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications are available at the reception area, 2nd floor of DFS Galleria Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Saipan

Opening Date: **November 19, 2012** Position: **Operations Clerk (9)**
Closing Date: **November 23, 2012** Salary: **$5.55 - $6.60 per hour**

Duties: Performs all and/or any combination of following duties requiring knowledge of systems or procedures: operates office machines, such as desktop computers, laptops, typewriter, adding, calculating, and duplicating machines; enters room bookings and room report for bookings into computer and forwards the information to Shanghai office via email and telephone; confirms and reconfirms hotel bookings with Shanghai office; inform Tour Guides of guests bus number assignments; prepare correspondence, bills, statements, receipts, or other documents, copying information from one record to another; photocopies documents, using photocopier; answers correspondence and emails, and prepares mail and email to Shanghai office; obtains travel and hotel accommodations for guests; prepares tour schedules and itineraries, and compiles reports of transactions; obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information; prepares guests tour booklet, copy of tour itinerary, written lodging confirmations and tour suggestions. answers guests and Shanghai office inquiries concerning tour routes, sightseeing schedules, fares and fees, and accommodations; prepare activity forms for Tour Guides; prepare key envelopes for incoming guests; sorts and files records; copies data and compiles records and reports; finalize guests name list to hotels; make bus reservations; Answers telephone, conveys messages, and runs errands; reply to Shanghai office emails, and perform other related duties assigned or as required.

Position Requirements: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience in tour operation, sales or service related experience; must be able to speak, read, and understand Mandarin; excellent communication, organizational, and sales skills preferred; must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours, located at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

Science & Technology

Holiday gadgets: Gift guide to full-size tablets

By PETER SVENSSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Tablets are at the top of many wish lists this holiday season. But what to get? The choice used to be pretty limited, with the iPad dominating the latecomers. But this year, the field is more even, as tablets from Apple's competitors have matured. In addition, Google and Microsoft are diving in with their own tablets, providing more choice.

The first step in the buying process is to decide on the size of the tablet. They fall into two rough categories: the full-sized tablet, pioneered by the iPad, and the half-size tablet, epitomized by the Kindle Fire.

Full-sized tablets, which generally have screens measuring about 10 inches on the diagonal, are better for surfing websites designed for PCs, and far better when it comes to displaying magazines and documents. Overall, they go further toward replacing a laptop. They cost $400 and up.

Half-sized tablets, which have screens measuring roughly 7 inches on the diagonal, are cheaper and lighter, but just as good as full-sized tablets for e-book reading. It's an excellent first computing device for a kid, or a gentle nudge into the digital world for an older adult with little computing experience. This year's crop costs $199 and up, but last year's models are available for less.

If you've settled on a large tablet, here are some top choices. A review of smaller tablets ran Monday.

■ APPLE IPAD, FOURTH GENERATION (starts at $499)

Apple usually updates the iPad once a year, so it was a surprise when it dropped a new model in October, with a faster processor and the new "Lightning" connection and charging port, replacing the wide port inherited from the iPod. Like the third-generation iPad launched in March it has an ultra-high-resolution "Retina" screen. The model's resolution of 2,048 by 1,536 pixels is only surpassed by the Google Nexus 10.

That means the current iPad is two generations ahead of the iPad 2 that was on sale last holiday season. It packs enough improvements to make the upgrade worth it. The iPad 2 is still on sale for $100 less, but it's not a very good value for the money: if $400 is all you can spend, there are better tablets out there than the iPad 2.

While other tablets are starting to approach it in terms of hardware, the iPad still enjoys the best support by far from third parties, both in terms of quality applications and accessories like cases.

One caveat: the base model of the iPad has only 16 gigabytes of storage, which fills up fast these days. The thoughtful giver goes for at least a 32-gigabyte model, for $100 more.

Other than that, there are few downsides to the iPad: no one will frown when opening this package.

■ BARNES & NOBLE NOOK HD+ (starts at $269)

For a book store, Barnes & Noble makes some amazing tablets. The HD+ is its first model that approaches the iPad in size, with a screen that's 9 inches on the diagonal. That makes it slightly smaller than the iPad, and the resolution is lower as well, but still very respectable. At 1,920 by 1,280 pixels, it can show more detail than a living-room HDTV.

The Nook is family-friendly too. You can create user accounts and restrict them from certain content, so there's less risk that your kids will stumble on your copy of "Fifty Shades of Grey."

Like the basic iPad, the basic Nook HD+ comes with just 16 gigabytes of storage memory, but it can be expanded with a microSD memory card. That means another 32 gigabytes will cost you just $25—a good deal.

But the Nook is the least versatile tablet in our roundup. The number of apps available is small, and it's focused on Barnes & Noble content like e-books, magazines and movies. It doesn't have any cameras, while the competitors have two each. It's best for someone who's likely to stick to media consumption, and doesn't need the latest apps and games.

■ SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 10.1 (starts at $499)

If the Nook is for the avid reader or movie watcher, the Galaxy Note 10.1 is for the creative type. It's the only tablet in our roundup that comes with a "pen" that can be used to write and draw on the screen. In our test, this worked well, though the number of apps that take advantage of the pen is still small. (Other tablets, like the iPad, only respond to finger-like objects, so third-party styluses for them are of necessity thick and clumsy.)

The Note 10.1 runs Google's Android software, giving it access to a wide array of apps originally written for smartphones. The selection is not on par with the iPad's but better than other alternatives.

The Note's screen falls into the low-resolution category, sporting 1,280 by 800 pixels. That's a third of what the iPad musters.

Like the Nook, the Note 10.1's storage memory can be expanded with cards.

The Note's appeal is somewhat niche, but it could be just the thing for the budding or established artist.

■ MICROSOFT SURFACE (starts at $499)

Microsoft's first tablet seems at first like a throwback to the first iPad. It's thick, heavy and rugged. But it's really doesn't have much in common with the first iPad or any Apple- or Google-powered tablet. It runs Windows RT, a version of Windows 8 adapted for tablets. It comes with a version of Microsoft's Office suite and the ability to connect to wireless printers and some other peripherals, like USB drives. The covers for it have functional keyboard printed on the inside.

The screen resolution is 1,366 by 768 pixels, placing it in the low-resolution category.

The Surface screams "work, work, work." It's the tablet for those who are wedded to Word and want to take their writing on the go.

One thing to note about the Surface: the basic model starts out with "32 gigabytes" of memory, but of that, only 16 gigabytes are available to the user. It accepts memory cards of up to 64 gigabytes, however, so expanding the memory is cheap.

Note that even though it runs Windows, the Surface doesn't run standard Windows applications. It will run only programs specifically adapted for Windows RT. The selection is, for now, quite limited.

■ ASUS VIVO TAB RT (starts at $599 with a dock)

Asus has a quality line of Android tablets they call "Transformer" because they dock into a keyboard with an extra battery. The combination folds up just like a small laptop and has excellent battery life. The Vivo Tab RT essentially takes a Transformer and stuffs it with Windows RT instead of Android.

The tablet part is smaller and thinner than the Surface. Together with the keyboard, it makes for a familiar little setup: a tiny laptop running Windows. Like the Surface, it has a memory card slot and a USB port. The screen resolution is the same.

The Vivo Tab is a good tool for those who want to get some work done on the commute or plane, or those who can't decide if they want a laptop or a tablet.

■ GOOGLE NEXUS 10 (starts at $399)

This is Google's first full-size tablet and the only tablet from any manufacturer that beats the screen resolution of the iPad. It boasts 2,560 by 1,600 pixels, a third more than the fourth-generation iPad.

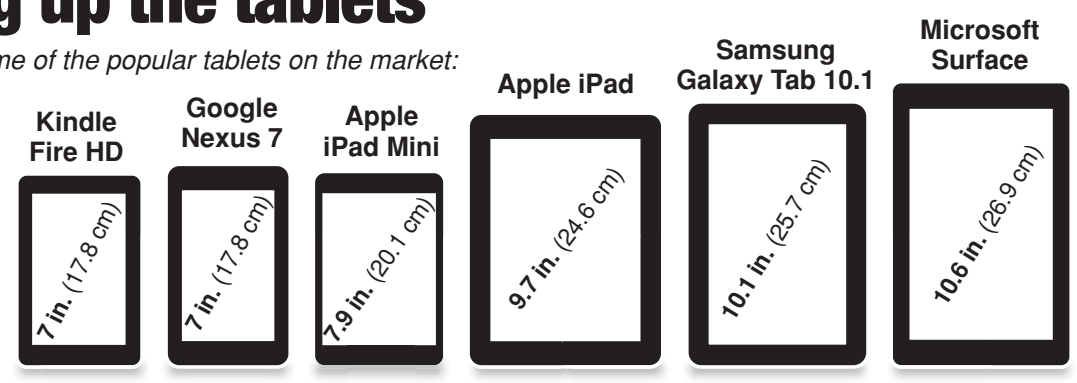
It's also the only tablet in this roundup that has speakers on either side of the screen when it's held horizontally, making for good stereo reproduction when you're watching movies. It has a grippy, rubberized back and widely rounded corners. There's no memory card slot or an option for a cellular modem.

The array of third-party software is wide, just as it is for the Note 10.1. Most people don't associate Google with online books, music or movies, so it may feel odd that the Nexus steers buyers to Google's Play store. Of course, given the open nature of Google's Android operating system, there are apps available for other entertainment stores, including Amazon's, and for streaming services like Netflix.

The Nexus 10 is a snappy performer, and among the iPad's competitors, it comes the closest to matching the versatility of Apple products.

Sizing up the tablets

A look at some of the popular tablets on the market:



	Kindle Fire HD	Google Nexus 7	Apple iPad Mini	Apple iPad	Samsung Galaxy Tab 10.1	Microsoft Surface
Thickness	0.45 in. (11.4 mm)	0.41 in. (10.4 mm)	0.28 in. (7.1 mm)	0.37 in. (9.4 mm)	0.34 in. (8.6 mm)	0.37 in. (9.4 mm)
Weight	0.88 lb. (399 g)	0.75 lb. (340 g)	0.68 lb. (308 g)	1.44 lb. (653 g)	1.2 lb. (565 g)	1.5 lb. (680 g)
Resolution	1024 x 600	1280 x 800	1024 x 768	2048 x 1536	1280 x 800	1366 x 768
Storage	16, 32 GB	8, 16 GB	16, 32, 64 GB	16, 32, 64 GB	16, 32, 64 GB	32, 64 GB
Battery	8.5 hours	9-10 hours	9-10 hours	9-10 hours	9 hours	8-10 hours
Price*	$199	$199	$329	$499	$349	$499

*Starting price Source: Apple, Microsoft, Samsung, Amazon, Google Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2012 MCT

Science Matters

See a yawn ... and yawn

A study of bonobos (a type of chimpanzee) found that yawning is especially contagious when the individuals are intimates.

1 First bonobo yawns

2 Response usually comes within 60 seconds`

MORE CONTAGIOUS

- Both are relaxed
- The two are relatives
- The two are close friends
- First to yawn is a senior member of bonobo group
- First yawn is by a female
- They are different genders
- They are same gender
- First yawn is by a male
- Second bonobo is tense or distracted
- The two are strangers

LESS CONTAGIOUS

Emotional bonding? Empathy?

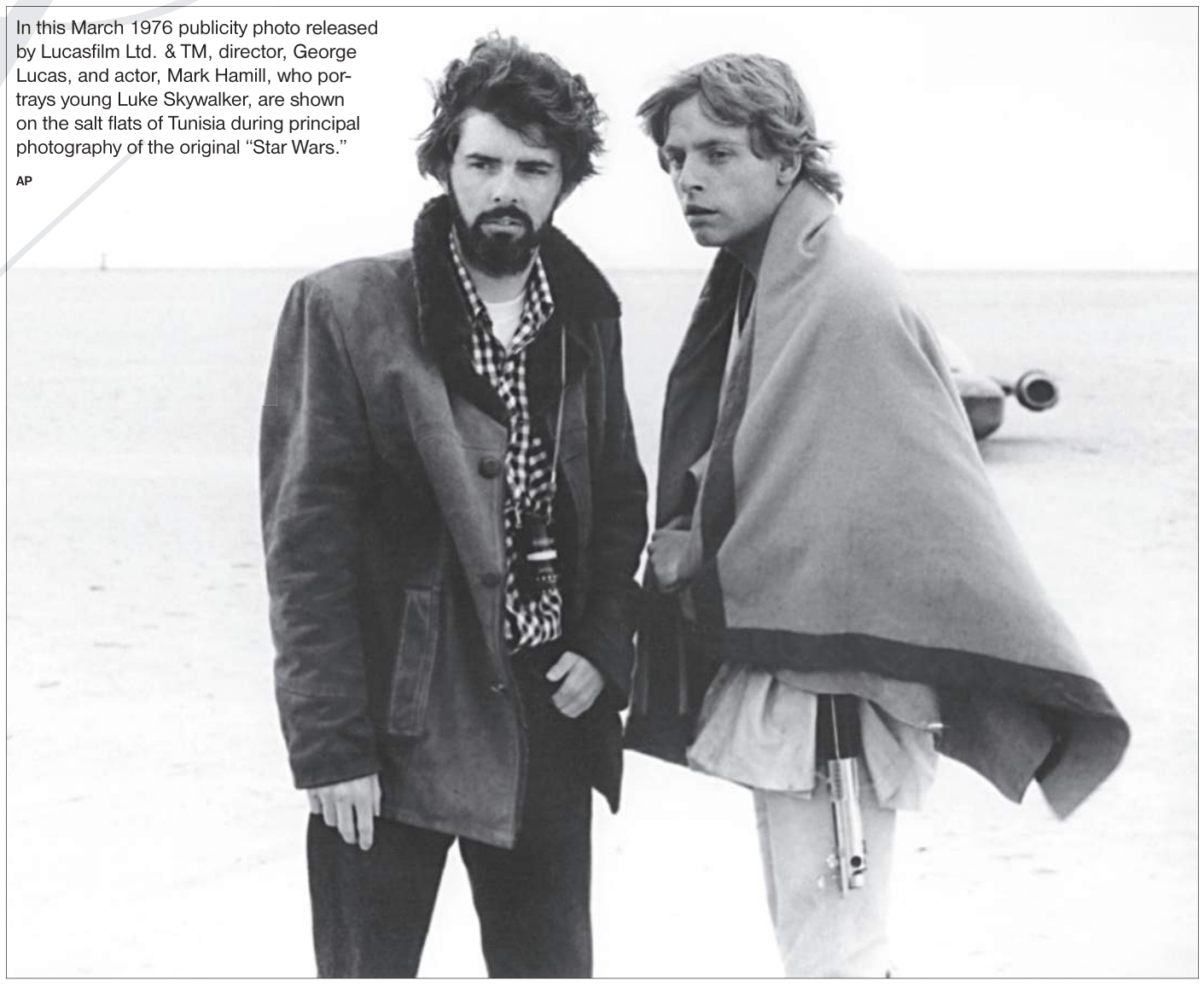
- Female bonobo often sets emotional tone; other bonobos then follow her
- Humans also are more likely to yawn when a family member or close friend, rather than a stranger, yawns

Source: Elisabetta Palagi and Elisa Demuru of University of Pisa (Italy), PLOS ONE; MCT Photo Service Graphic: Helen Lee McComas © 2012 MCT

Life & Style

'Star Wars' 7 may bring new hope, but also letdown

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this March 1976 publicity photo released by Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM, director, George Lucas, and actor, Mark Hamill, who portrays young Luke Skywalker, are shown on the salt flats of Tunisia during principal photography of the original "Star Wars."

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Darth Vader is dead. The evil Emperor exploded after being thrown down a shaft. And Luke Skywalker and his allies destroyed both Death Stars, restoring balance to the Force. For The Walt Disney Co., the prospective new owner of the "Star Wars" franchise, what's left to tell?

A lot, apparently.

There are more than 110 novels and 80-plus comic books set after the events of "Return of the Jedi," the sixth episode in the film series and the third to be made. All of these additions to the so-called "expanded universe" were sanctioned by Lucasfilm Ltd., founded by series creator George Lucas.

That has left a lot of room for speculation ever since Disney announced last month that it would buy Lucasfilm for $4.05 billion and resume making "Star Wars" movies, starting with Episode 7 in 2015.

For fans, some big questions remain.

Will Luke take on a Jedi apprentice? Will Han Solo and Princess Leia have kids? And who will be the movies' villain? (A) A revived Emperor; (B) the hard-to-kill bounty hunter Boba Fett; (C) some new corrupt leader of the remnants of the Empire, or (D), all of the above?

Each of these scenarios have been explored in some fashion away from the big screen. Whether they will be incorporated into the next trilogy of films is anyone's guess.

"Right now, everyone is literally just reading tea leaves," said Bryan Young, a "Star Wars" watcher and editor of the blog, Big Shiny Robot.

The facts so far about the announced Episodes 7, 8 and 9 are scant: Lucas will be a creative consultant but won't direct the films. Kathleen Kennedy will produce them as president of Lucasfilm. And Oscar-winning writer Michael Arndt, who wrote "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Toy Story 3," will pen the screenplay for Episode 7.

One of the most telling clues as to the next trilogy's direction, according to Young, is the fact that Lucas invited Luke actor Mark Hamill and Princess Leia actress Carrie Fisher to lunch some time ago to tell them that the sequels were going to be made, a reversal of his denials over the years.

Hamill talked about the lunch with Entertainment Weekly, saying he also spoke with Lucas about three weeks before the Disney announcement and just missed a call from him the day the deal was made public Oct. 30.

That suggests that Luke and on-screen sister Leia, will be involved in some way in the sequel. After all, their characters are the last members of the Skywalker family, and the most potent wielders of the Force that appear to be left in the galaxy. "I think that's the best clue we have," Young said.

Responding to a query from The Associated Press, Hamill said he couldn't comment further, but noted in an email, "I should have all the information I need very soon."

Fisher, Lucasfilm and several people who work for the company declined comment.

The notion that Luke will make a comeback doesn't veer far from what's known about the movies themselves or from what has been said over the years.

In 2004, Hamill told Movieblog.com that Lucas' ideas for the sequels go as far back as 1976 during the shooting of the original "Star Wars," when the director said an older Hamill would have roles in them.

There is further backing for the idea that Luke will reappear from the films that have already been released, including "Return of the Jedi."

And others around Lucas have spoken publicly about the idea that the family drama that began with Anakin Skywalker and continued with his son Luke would carry on for at least the next three films.

"It's really nine parts of one film," said Rick McCallum, producer of the prequel Episodes 1, 2 and 3, in 1999, according to "The Secret History of Star Wars" by author Michael Kaminski.

The cohesion that McCallum suggested belies the haphazard nature with which the movies have been put together. At different points in time, Lucas has said there was just one, three, six, nine or even 12 films envisioned in all.

Kaminski's book recounts multiple script revisions to most of the films, including some discrepancies that were later papered over. For instance, at one point, Anakin Skywalker and Darth Vader were separate characters, not the one person we know through the movies to have turned evil.

Given the proliferation of storylines and characters in the "expanded universe," Kaminski said there's a good chance that some of those storylines will be cast aside, altered, or even contradicted outright.

"It will affect the 'expanded universe' one way or another," Kaminski said. "It's going to be hard to reconcile those different things."

The idea that the new films will diverge from what's out there is supported by Kennedy, who spoke in a video released by Lucasfilm shortly after the Disney deal was announced.

"This is not like a series of books like 'Harry Potter' where you've already got a template of what the stories might be," she said. "These are original stories and original ideas that come from out of a world that essentially is in George's head."

Beyond some broad strokes that the movies hint at—such as Luke's passing on the Jedi ways—it seems doubtful that such a creative mind as Lucas would surrender the movies' outcome to tales that have already been written.

That means that fans of the books, comics and video games in the "Star Wars" universe could be either disappointed or delighted by the result.

But if there were no surprises, the adventure just wouldn't be the same.

"Almost anything is possible," said Jay Shepard, a content editor at fan site TheForce.net. "But I don't believe it will be any type of plotline we've already seen."

Lindsay Lohan says return to red carpet 'feels great'

By MARCELA ISAZA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Actress Lindsay Lohan attends a dinner celebrating the premiere of "Liz & Dick" at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan arrived an hour late to the red carpet to celebrate the premiere of "Liz & Dick" but basked in the media frenzy—saying it felt good to have the focus on her work as an actress.

"It feels great to be on a red carpet for working hard," Lohan said.

Lohan went for an old-Hollywood glamour look in a slinky ivory slip dress, her long hair wavy and parted on the side. Lohan plays screen icon Elizabeth Taylor in the made-for-TV film about her romance with Richard Burton that airs Sunday on Lifetime.

"I wasn't going to let them make the movie without me, first of all," joked Lohan. "I harassed (executive producer) Larry Thompson. But just because it's such an iconic story of love and defeat, and loving it, and Elizabeth Taylor was such an icon of mine and so many other people's, that it was an important film to depict correctly."

Top choices for the role were Lohan and Megan Fox, and Thompson said the choice became obvious after his meeting with Lohan.

"Well Lindsay Lohan wanted it. That was really the big difference," said Thompson. "She evidenced in her words and looking at me in the eyes that needed it, she could relate to Elizabeth Taylor, she felt that she could bring an inner essence other than just being a good actress."

Lohan said she felt similarities with Taylor: "She grew up with her mom mostly, and so have I, and also living your life in the public, I think that's the main one. It's hard, but I think there are certain people that are, I look to her because she got through it."

Lohan has made headlines for problems with cocaine, alcohol and driving that landed her in a Los Angeles-area jail for about two weeks in 2010. A shoplifting charge put her under house arrest.

Brushes with the tabloids continued during the filming of "Liz & Dick," when she was involved in a car accident that sent her and her assistant to a hospital. She was cleared of accusations in both Los Angles and New York that she clipped people with her car.

Thompson acknowledged "there were days as reported that making the right decision was easier than living with the right decision. But it was the right decision nonetheless." He added that in her heyday, Taylor was "a handful, too."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

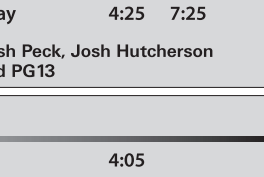
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.
$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

BUY $30 IN GIFT CARDS & RECEIVE A FREE MEDIUM POPCORN!



Available at the box office & online

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Nov. 23rd through Thursday, Nov. 29th, 2012

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★

Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday and Saturday	1:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday		7:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A group of mythical fairy-tale characters team up to save the world in this DreamWorks Animation production. Based on William Joyce's series of children's books, the pic features the voice acting talents of Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law, and Isla Fisher. Peter Ramsey co-directs with Joyce.

Life of Pi 3D

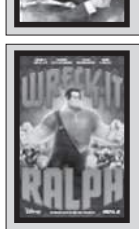
Friday and Saturday	1:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		7:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Red Dawn

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:05
Sunday	4:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG

Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday and Saturday	4:30	9:45
Sunday	4:30	
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

Flight

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R

Skyfall

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Wreck-It Ralph 2D

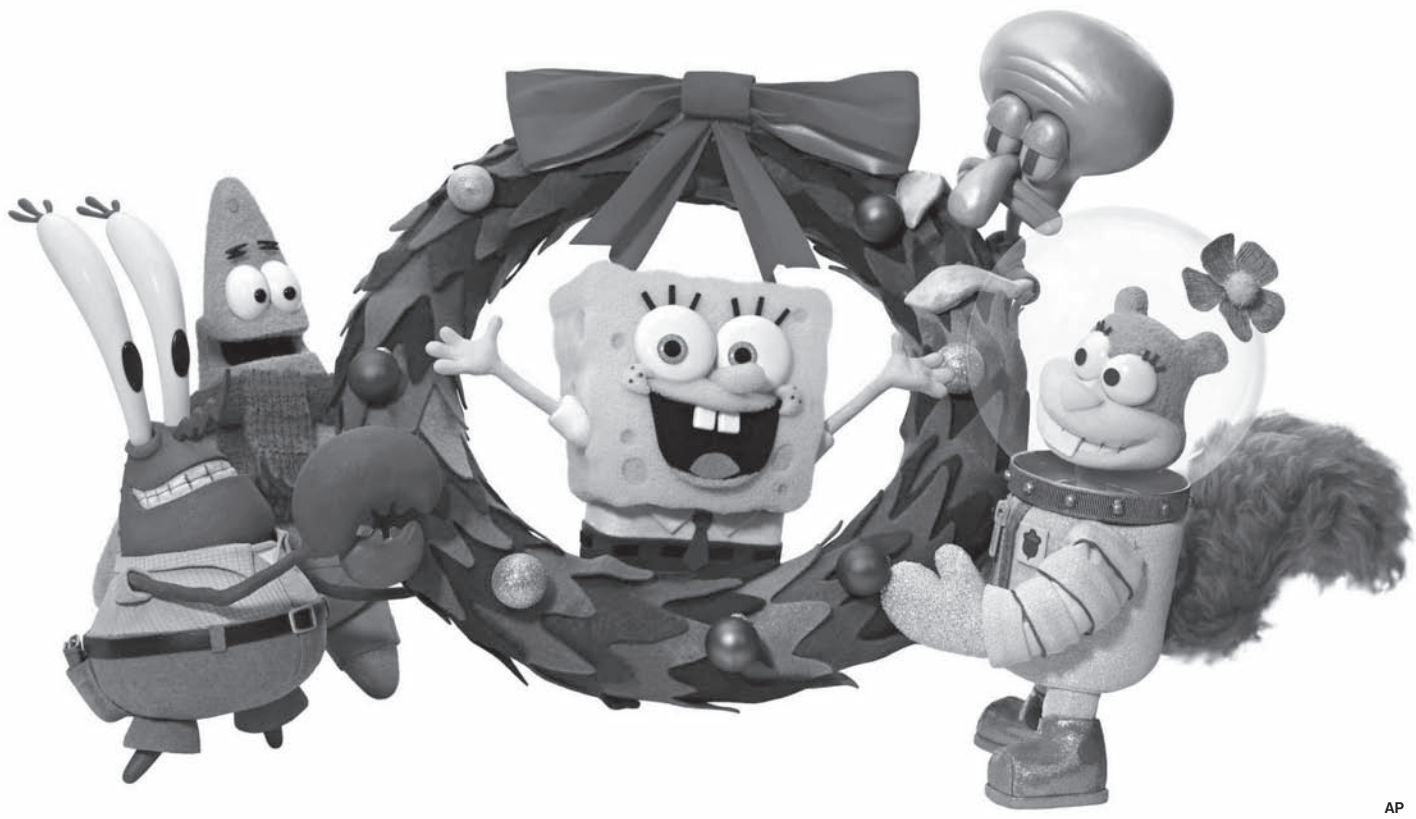
Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com



AP

This undated publicity photo provided by Nickelodeon shows the SpongeBob Squarepants holiday special, "It's a SpongeBob Christmas." The special will debut Friday, Nov. 23, 2012, on CBS and then air Dec. 9 on Nickelodeon.

SpongeBob Christmas special goes stop-motion

LOS ANGELES (AP)—How does "It's a SpongeBob Christmas!" squeeze even more fun out of our porous little hero and the Bikini Bottom gang? By turning the animated characters three-dimensional for their holiday special.

In a tribute to classic fare such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the "SpongeBob SquarePants" crew has been re-imagined as puppets and put through their comedy paces for stop-motion photography.

The story line was dreamed up by Tom Kenny, the voice of SpongeBob: The denizens of Bikini Bottom are suddenly rude because of exposure to jerktonium, a plot by naughty Plankton to get on Santa's (voiced by guest star John Goodman) nice list.

Plankton "wants to put everyone on their worst behavior when they should be on their best behavior, and zany mayhem ensues," Kenny said.

"It's a SpongeBob Christmas!" debuts 9:30 p.m. EST Friday on CBS, followed by an encore on the show's home network, Nickelodeon, at 7:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Dec. 9.

The first-time foray into stop-motion is a welcome change for the 13-year-old "SpongeBob," Kenny said.

"It's fun that after all these years we can still do stuff that's a little different. It's like reinventing the wheel a little bit—if you can refer to a square character as a wheel," he added, unable to resist the quip.

The actor looks back fondly on childhood memories of "Rudolph" from the Rankin-Bass studio and other stop-action projects. Even a TV commercial that put Santa on an electric razor subbing for a sleigh gets a Kenny shoutout.

Asked if young viewers might be fazed by seeing the familiar characters in a new guise, Kenny mulled the question before rebutting it.

"The characters act the same, the recording process is exactly the same. Our job is exactly the same. ... There's still plenty of the animated mayhem and anarchy that happens in the 2-D version of the show."

Screen Novelties, the Los Angeles studio that produced the Christmas special, made a feast out of the job. In just one of their inventive approaches, filmmakers used fruit-flavored cereal to create a coral reef.

"I came to the studio and they had hundreds of boxes of cereal open and were hot-gluing it together," Kenny recalled.

The Patrick Star puppet was covered in wool-like material and SpongeBob "wasn't a sponge but some kind of weird material they found somewhere," he said, admiringly. "They're like 'MacGyver,' always repurposing something."

The TV special has a small element of recycling. Kenny calls it a testament to "a goofy little song" he and collaborator Andy Paley wrote three years ago, "Don't Be a Jerk, (It's Christmas)."

"Bring joy to the world, it's the thing to do. But the world does not revolve around you. Don't be a jerk, it's Christmas" is among its bouncy but cautionary verses.

The tune is among a dozen included on the digital release "It's a SpongeBob Christmas! Album," most written by Kenny and Paley (a songwriter-producer who's worked with artists including Brian Wilson and Blondie), and four of them part of the special.

Music fans might want to check out the album for its craftsmanship. The veterans who play on it include harpist Corky Hale and harmonica player Tommy Morgan, both of whom have backed a roster of big stars, including Billie Holliday and Frank Sinatra.

The recording sessions proved an early holiday gift for Kenny.

Guardianship extended for 'Modern Family' star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge determined Tuesday that teen actress Ariel Winter's mother should not regain custody of the "Modern Family" star and that the 14-year-old should remain in her older sister's care for the next several weeks.

Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas issued the ruling after considering a report by child protective investigators that was critical of Winter's mother, Chrisoula Workman.

The report found there was evidence of emotional abuse toward Winter, Levanas said, and the agency planned to step in and take its own action if Winter did not remain in a guardianship.

The ruling came more than six weeks after Workman was temporarily stripped of custody amid allegations she had been physically and emotionally abusive to Winter.

Levanas said the investigators' report found that claims of physical abuse were inconclusive, but an attorney for Winter's sister said they could be proven in a subsequent report.

The judge set a Dec. 12 trial date to determine whether Winter should be placed in a permanent guardianship.

Winter has been under the care of her sister, Shanelle Gray, since early October. Levanas said that if the case remains in his courtroom, he will make sure the family works toward reconciliation.

Winter

"I guarantee if it stays here, it will get better," the judge said. He said the Department of Children and Family Services could still choose to file its own case, which would remove it from his jurisdiction.

Winter's mother has denied all accusations that she was abusive to her daughter.

Winter's father, Glenn Workman, also filed an objection to the guardianship late Monday, stating he wants a better relationship with his daughter and would be willing to care for her.

"Even the judge today agreed that reunification is so important for a family, and while Ariel is still temporarily with her sister for now, we remain hopeful she will be home soon," Chrisoula and Glenn Workman wrote in a statement released Tuesday evening.

Levanas said Glenn Workman's filing was in conflict with statements he gave to investigators and that he could not give him custody of the young actress. He also noted that Glenn Workman described his estranged wife to investigators as "controlling and driven."

"A controlling mother does not mean she's unfit," Chrisoula Workman's attorney Anita Gumm said in court Tuesday. Gumm said after the hearing that the allegations of emotional abuse would also be proven false.

Gray was also taken from Chrisoula Workman's care in the 1990s amid accusations of abuse. Chrisoula Workman contends Gray was a rebellious teen who left home and that she is contending with a similar situation with Winter, who has been acting since age 7 and stars as Alex Dunphy on the hit ABC series "Modern Family."

People on the show's set are concerned about Winter's well-being and have been sneaking her food, according to in-court statements by Gray's attorney, Michael Kretzmer.

"Not for one second is this the picture of a rebellious teen," Kretzmer said during the hearing.

Gray's filing states Chrisoula Workman has repeatedly slapped Winter and engaged in emotional abuse, including name-calling.

Justin Bieber won't face charge for May scuffle

This June 11, 2012 file photo shows Justin Bieber before a news conference in Mexico City. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Justin Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theater last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

Prosecutors had been asked by police to consider filing a misdemeanor battery charge against Bieber, but Los Angeles County sheriff's investigators found no visible injuries, video or photographs to confirm the photographer's allegations.

Bieber, 18, was leaving the theater with girlfriend Selena Gomez on May 27 when he had the encounter in a parking lot.

Authorities interviewed several witnesses, but none reported seeing Bieber kick the man, and they noted that the photographer kept taking photos as the two singers left the location, according to the document prepared by the district attorney's office.

"All the photos and video taken during this incident by the many photographers were obtained and reviewed," the document states. "There are no photos of a physical altercation."

The case was rejected on Oct. 22 and first reported Wednesday by celebrity website TMZ.

Ex-'Price is Right' model gets $8.5M in damages

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The producers of "The Price is Right" owe a former model on the show more than $7.7 million in punitive damages for discriminating against her after a pregnancy, a jury determined Wednesday.

The judgment came one day after the panel determined the game show's producers discriminated against Brandi Cochran. They awarded her nearly $777,000 in actual damages.

Cochran, 41, said she was rejected when she tried to return to work in early 2010 after taking maternity leave. The jury agreed and determined that Fremantle-Media North America and The Price is Right Productions owed her more than $8.5 million in all.

"I'm humbled. I'm shocked," Cochran said after the jury announced its verdict. "I'm happy that justice was served today not only for women in the entertainment industry, but women in the workplace."

FremantleMedia said it was standing by its previous statement, which said it expected to be "fully vindicated" after an appeal.

"We believe the verdict in this case was the result of a flawed process in which the court, among other things, refused to allow the jury to hear and consider that 40 percent of our models have been pregnant," and further "important" evidence, FremantleMedia said.

In their defense, producers said they were satisfied with the five models working on the show at the time Cochran sought to return.

Several other former models have sued the series and its longtime host, Bob Barker, who retired in 2007.

Most of the cases involving "Barker's Beauties"—the nickname given the gown-wearing women who presented prizes to contestants—ended with out-of-court settlements.

12 unreleased Jimi Hendrix songs to debut March 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A new Jimi Hendrix album is coming March 5.

The musician's website says "People, Hell and Angels" contains 12 previously unreleased tracks recorded in 1968 and '69.

Rolling Stone revealed the album cover on its website Wednesday.

Hendrix recorded the songs apart from the Jimi Hendrix Experience as he considered new, experimental directions for his follow-up to "Electric Ladyland." He plays keyboards, percussion and a second guitar on the album.

In this 1970 file photo, Jimi Hendrix performs on the Isle of Wight in England. AP

Tom Hanks, Will Ferrell offer custom recordings

NEW YORK (AP)—Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing voicemail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

All it takes is $299 and some luck.

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, a limited number of 20-second long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety.

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award winner of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Lou Grant," dreamed up the unusual fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner, who is currently on Broadway in the play "Grace." "I'll probably say, `What are you wearing?' Or, `Take it off.' Something like that."

All proceeds will support autism research and advocacy efforts. An estimated 1 in 88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum, a developmental disorder characterized by communication difficulties, social and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors.

If he could get a message from one of the other stars participating, which would Asner want?

"I'm awfully stuck on Will Ferrell, having been subjected to him in `Elf,'" Asner says. "But they're all such standouts—Patrick Stewart, Leonard Nimoy, Shatner. The list doesn't stop. Even Betty White," he adds about his "MTM" co-star. "She's still got some good left in her."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Actress Mayim Bialik to divorce husband of 9 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mayim Bialik is splitting from her husband of nine years. The 36-year-old actress says in a statement posted online Wednesday that she and husband Michael Stone have decided to divorce. The couple has two young sons. Bialik recently released a book about attachment parenting, but says the philosophy that encourages forming close bonds with near-constant physical contact played no role in the couple's split. The Emmy-nominated star of CBS' "The Big Bang Theory" says "relationships are complicated no matter what style of parenting you choose." She says divorce is "terribly sad, painful and incomprehensible" for children and adds that the couple's sons remain their priority. Bialik first gained fame as the star of the 1990s sitcom "Blossom." She holds a doctoral degree in neuroscience from UCLA, specializing in obsessive-compulsive disorder in adolescents.

Chevy Chase is leaving TV sitcom 'Community'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBC series "Community" will finish the season without Chevy Chase. Sony Pictures Television said Wednesday that the actor is leaving the sitcom by mutual agreement with producers. His immediate departure means he won't be included in the last episode or two of the show's 13-episode season, which is still in production. Chase had a rocky tenure playing a bored and wealthy man who enrolls in community college. The actor publicly expressed unhappiness at working on a sitcom and feuded last year with the show's creator and former executive producer, Dan Harmon. The fourth-season premiere of "Community" is Feb. 7. The show's ensemble cast includes Joel McHale and Donald Glover.

Widower looks for right way to say thanks but no thanks

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife died a few years ago. I live alone and have been a bachelor since then. Old friends have been kind enough to pass along the names and phone numbers of widows or divorcees they felt would be of interest to me. I have taken several of them out to dinner. Some were interesting, but for one reason or another we didn't have enough "chemistry" for me to call them for another date.

What is the considerate thing to do after having just one date? Should I call the person and say it was pleasant, but ...? Should I not call at all and move on? I feel guilty at times for not following up with some comment, as they were mostly nice women. Any suggestions about how to handle these situations would be welcome.

MIAMI WIDOWER

DEAR WIDOWER: Conversations such as this can be awkward, which is why many people avoid having them. Because you feel you "should" say something, a way to handle it would be to say you had a nice time, but you are still grieving and are not ready for a relationship. Chemistry is supposed to be mutual, so don't be surprised if some of the women aren't interested in pursuing a relationship with you, either. That's life.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work in a store that is popular with teenagers. Every Christmas, parents and grandparents come in here with absolutely no clue what to get. Asking "What's popular right now?" doesn't help. (What's cool to one teen may be lame to another.) I'd like to offer a couple of tips to help clueless relatives select the right gift for their teen.

(1) Bring a recent photo of her or him. We can tell a lot by looking. It will provide hints as to what kind of gift they may like.

(2) Copy a list of their "likes" from Facebook and bring it with you. It may mention books, music, movies or other interests that will make it easy to track down something they would enjoy.

I hope this helps some of your readers.

VALERIE IN FORT WORTH

DEAR VALERIE: Bless you for writing. I'm sure many parents and grandparents will take your suggestions to heart. Santa isn't the only one who needs a "helper" at Christmastime.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you think of a 30-year-old man who posted every detail about his breakup with my daughter on Facebook for all of their 1,000 friends and family members to read? There was some personal and very painful stuff.

Is this the "new generation" norm? Or is he immature and inconsiderate?

HURTING FOR MY DAUGHTER

DEAR HURTING: Welcome to the wonderful world of the Internet, where millions of individuals have chosen to live their lives online for all to see. And while you and I might consider what happened to be a form of kissing-and-telling, bragging, a bid for sympathy and in poor taste, the people who love your daughter will "unfriend" this person, and those who love gossip will devour every detail with relish.

In time your daughter will realize she is lucky this relationship is over. Whether her former boyfriend used Facebook to gain 15 minutes of fame or as a weapon to hurt her, I think she can do better. Don't you?

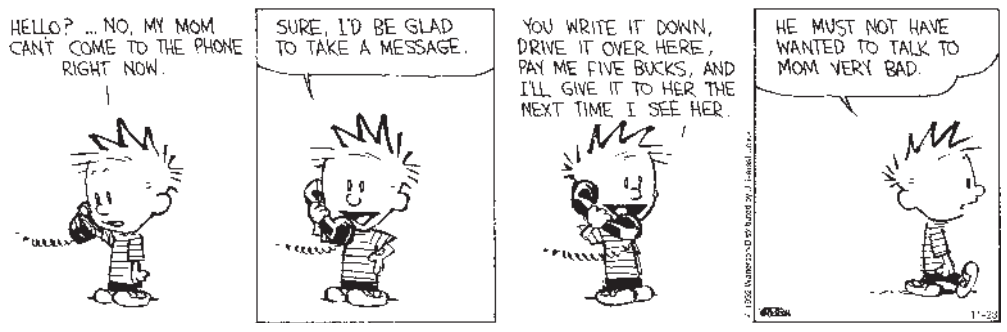
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HELLO? ... NO, MY MOM CAN'T COME TO THE PHONE RIGHT NOW.
SURE, I'D BE GLAD TO TAKE A MESSAGE.
YOU WRITE IT DOWN, DRIVE IT OVER HERE, PAY ME FIVE BUCKS, AND I'LL GIVE IT TO HER THE NEXT TIME I SEE HER.
HE MUST NOT HAVE WANTED TO TALK TO MOM VERY BAD.

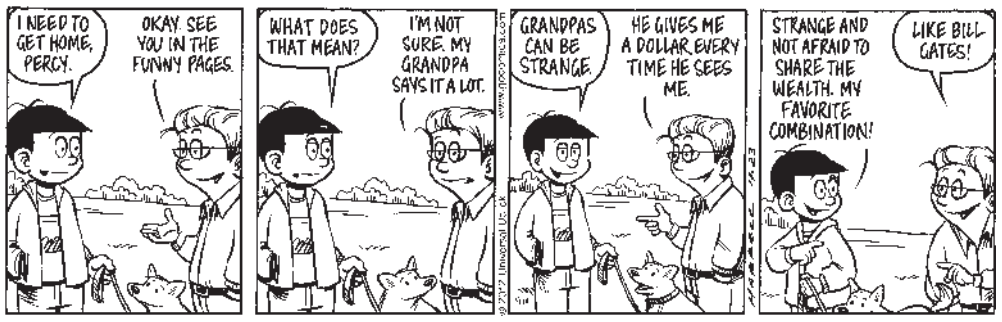
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LET'S SEE WHAT'S FOR SUPPER
LOOKS LIKE LEFT-OVERS
IS MEAT LOAF SUPPOSED TO BE THIS COLOR?
I'LL GET OUR MEAT LOAF COLOR CHART
JIM DAVIS 11-23

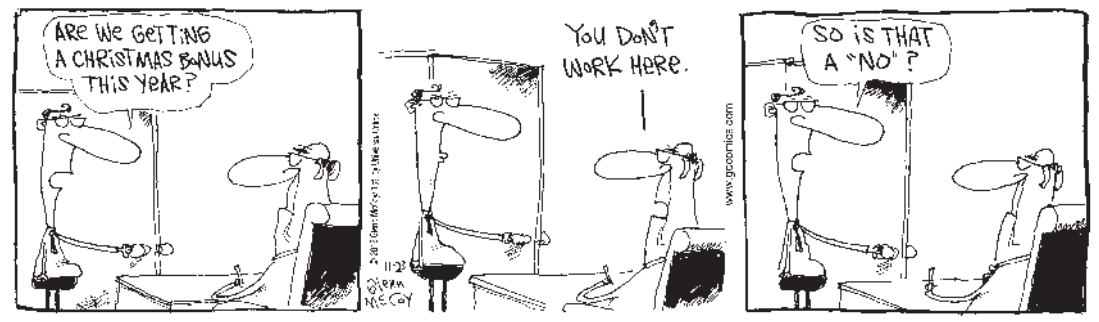
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED TO GET HOME, PERCY.
OKAY. SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAGES.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'M NOT SURE. MY GRANDPA SAYS IT A LOT.
GRANDPAS CAN BE STRANGE.
HE GIVES ME A DOLLAR EVERY TIME HE SEES ME.
STRANGE AND NOT AFRAID TO SHARE THE WEALTH. MY FAVORITE COMBINATION!
LIKE BILL GATES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

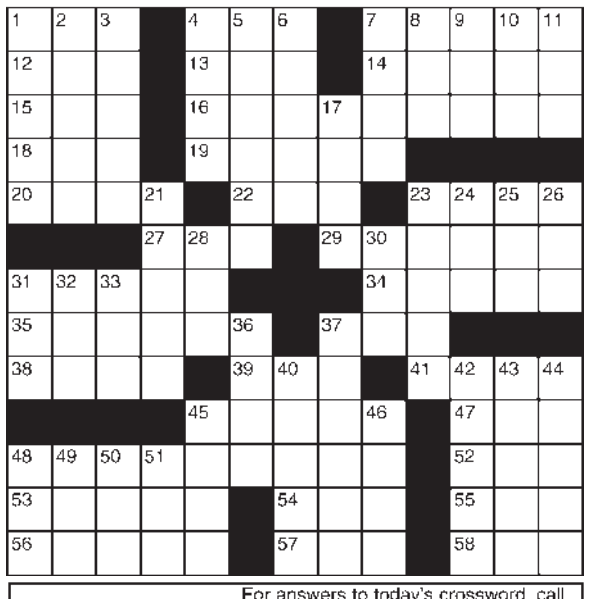
ACROSS
1 Several scenes
4 Track circuit
7 Root for
12 Feathery accessory
13 Actress Thurman
14 Sill
15 Branch
16 Joey and his parents?
18 Hi-tech SFX
19 Be philanthropic
20 Contraband measure
22 Author Brown
23 Got up
27 Vast expanse
29 Successful horticulturist
31 Upright
34 Pint fraction
35 Hitting sound
37 Plead
38 Gardener, at times
39 Hosp. section
41 Sharpen
45 Poe topic
47 Scale member
48 Dime portrait
52 Midafternoon, in a way
53 Trip around the world?
54 Lawyer's due
55 Superlative ending
56 Dams
57 Engine additive brand
58 Alternative to white

DOWN
1 By surprise
2 Welsh pooch
3 Sri Lankan language
4 "Star Wars" hero
5 Blake or Bynes
6 "Kung Fu —"
7 Talon
8 That girl
9 Tokyo's old name
10 Id counterpart
11 Scale members
17 Talent show prop
21 PBS curmudgeon
23 Coarse
24 Possess
25 Moment
26 Before
28 And the like (abbr.)
30 Fish eggs
31 Biblical verb suffix
32 Pi follower
33 Lamb's dam
36 Chicken —
37 Ammo unit
40 Staff leaders?
42 Wickerwork willow
43 Loud
44 Upper crust
45 Wagers
46 Pace
48 Tier
49 Raw rock
50 Sapporo sash
51 Round Table address

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	P	H	■	A	W	L	S	■	W	E	S	T
I	R	A	■	N	O	A	H	■	E	M	I	R
L	O	N	E	S	O	M	E	■	T	I	T	O
■	■	D	A	W	■	B	L	A	S	T	E	D
B	U	S	T	E	D	■	F	L	U	■	■	■
A	N	O	■	R	A	T	■	E	I	G	H	T
L	I	M	E	■	Y	A	P	■	T	R	E	E
E	X	E	R	T	■	J	A	R	■	U	R	N
■	■	■	R	A	F	■	R	O	B	E	R	T
C	R	E	A	M	E	R	■	G	U	S	■	■
R	A	F	T	■	T	I	R	E	S	O	M	E
A	N	T	I	■	A	G	A	R	■	M	A	R
M	I	S	C	■	L	A	W	S	■	E	G	G

Yesterday's answer 11-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miley Cyrus, 20; Salli Richardson-Whitfield, 45; Robin Roberts, 52; Bruce Hornsby, 58.

Happy Birthday: Keep the momentum going. Submit your input in order to avoid being railroaded into something you may not be happy with in the end. Take control and you will avoid being taken advantage of or misdirected. An old friend or lover can help you move forward. Don't overanalyze when action is what's required. Your numbers are 2, 8, 17, 26, 35, 38, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Size up your situation and rethink your next move. There is money to be made, but you'll have to make some changes first. Look over contracts and negotiate a workable way to please everyone and get what you need to continue. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Seriously look at your relationships with others and consider what the best course of action is concerning anyone who is deadweight. You need to be surrounded with positive people who contribute to your success and emotional wellness. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Honor commitments. Doors will open if you are honest regarding what you need and want for what you have to offer. A change will take place if you are willing to ask for a favor. An unusual idea will be successful. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put more effort and thought into personal self-improvement and socializing with people you find emotionally and mentally stimulating. Distance must be placed between you and someone that is unpredictable and emotionally draining. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen to what's being said or offered. Someone you are close to will distract or lead you astray. Do your own research and follow the path that feels most comfortable. A change of location or the people you hang out with will be rejuvenating. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Shop, make festive plans or arrange for future pleasure trips. You can update your look or engage in get-togethers with people you find enlightening. Planning something romantic will enhance your personal life and future prospects. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give up or give in. Focus on completing unfinished projects. Arguments will be a waste of time. Remembering or spending time with someone from your past will help you recognize what you are missing in your life. Follow a unique path. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stand up and be heard. Set your sights on what you want. Strength and courage will lead to the changes you've been dreaming of for some time. Don't get depressed when you should be making things happen. Take advantage of what's available. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Overspending, partying and taking on too much may be enticing, but it will also be stressful. Plan to get your house ready for end-of-year festivities. A reasonable change at home will make your place more comfortable. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get together with peers or colleagues. You'll discover a shared interest with someone from a unique background. Don't let your enthusiasm and excitement lead to an impulsive commitment. Listen and consider your options first. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone will try to dump responsibilities on you. Back away and put your time and effort into your home, family and budgeting for future plans. Creative solutions will make you look like a genius if executed unexpectedly and with precision. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let your imagination run wild and you will come up with some nifty ideas you can turn into a profit. Your negotiating skills will be sharp. Making personal and professional adjustments to agreements you've honored in the past can be upgraded. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are calculating and inquisitive. You are adaptable and resourceful.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	8			3	
		3				4		1
	9		4				5	
3		1						
2								8
						6		5
	7				3		4	
9		8				2		
	3			6	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	3	6	2	5	4	7	9
9	4	2	7	3	8	6	1	5
5	7	6	4	9	1	2	3	8
1	3	4	5	7	6	9	8	2
6	5	9	3	8	2	7	4	1
7	2	8	1	4	9	5	6	3
2	9	7	8	6	3	1	5	4
4	8	1	2	5	7	3	9	6
3	6	5	9	1	4	8	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/22

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SENIOR CITIZENS **Solution: 7 letters**

A	A	A	S	R	R	E	D	A	E	L	O	V	E	E
N	C	N	P	E	E	S	E	G	N	A	H	C	R	R
C	T	C	U	M	H	T	D	D	I	E	T	A	R	Y
E	I	I	O	E	E	I	I	D	A	N	C	I	N	G
S	V	E	R	M	R	M	S	R	C	O	G	N	I	B
T	I	N	G	B	P	Y	O	T	E	H	N	V	C	R
O	T	T	A	E	L	L	R	R	O	M	E	E	E	E
R	I	E	G	R	L	A	I	B	I	R	E	S	P	N
G	E	T	E	E	V	B	B	S	E	E	Y	N	S	O
A	S	D	I	E	S	I	I	S	H	E	S	T	T	I
M	L	V	L	I	E	I	P	G	A	M	O	R	Ⓔ	S
E	O	P	A	S	T	E	V	R	I	R	E	Ⓢ	M	N
M	R	T	E	A	C	H	S	D	I	L	Ⓘ	N	I	E
G	N	I	T	T	I	N	K	E	A	Ⓦ	E	E	T	P
E	G	N	I	G	N	I	S	X	L	L	O	R	T	S

© 2012 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 11/23

Accomplishments, Activities, Advise, Age, Ancestor, Ancient, Bingo, Bridge, Care, Changes, Chess, Dancing, Dietary, Elderly, Eligible, Game, Giver, Groups, History, Hobbies, Knitting, Leader, Love, Memories, Movie, Nice, Open, Past, Pensioner, Relax, Remember, Respect, Retirement, Singing, Stories, Stroll, Teach, Time, Travel, Wise, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Station

The NEW Treasury Tibetan Love Secrets to Dancing, Medicine, Money Cleansing for $19.95 plus $5.00 postage and handling (814-365 Hold...) Just Call (800-...) to find Treasury, $8.00 plus postage and handling, to Universal Uclick, dept. 400, Delaware, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO. 64106 or call (800-...) 1-800-642-6480. Order call is also available from Amazon.com for $30 plus... including $3 of Privilege 20 to 30 days

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Baker. Experienced in baking breads, cakes, pizza & pastries. Please call 287-6532.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

WHATZIT Solution: Home rule

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
Calva Crew 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday • 9:00AM-9:00PM

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Accounting Clerk – At least 5 yrs experience. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & Oracle Accounting Software.

(1) Graphic Artist – Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. 5 years experience. Proficient in Illustrator/Photoshop CS5.

Submit Application to Saipan Apparel.
Tel. 235-1680

Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement • Closing Date: Dec. 1, 2012

Admin/Executive Coordinator

Knowledge Required:
- B.S. in Business Admin, QC of CADD Drawings, Marketing Skills/Degree, Payroll Processing/Minor Typing, & Database/Excel Experience

E-mail resume and history to tjddave@hotmail.com

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

WANTED TO HIRE

WAITER/WAITRESS
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be 21 yrs. old & above
- 2 years work related experience required

COOK
2 years work related experience required
- CW1 is accepted

Walk-in applicants only, with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline: November 23, 2012

Country House/ Moby Dick Restaurant

POI Aviation invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Deadline: November 23, 2012
For details, please contact the Human Resources Office at 288-0360.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager (1 position)
$2,500 per month
- Knowledgeable in electrical products including latest items in the market.
- Knowledgeable in POS system and have 5 years experience in managerial position.
- Knowledgeable in ordering, receiving, warehousing & distribution of electrical products.
- Can prepare quotation, sales invoice, receive payment, and can deal with customers and vendors.
- Preferably bilingual (English & Korean Language)

Computer Programmer (1 position)
$5.55 per hour
- Must have 5 years experience in programming and troubleshooting of various computer system such as networking, CCTV, communication, and POS software.
- Knowledgeable in data files security measures, record of sales, inventory, and product database.
- Familiar in sales operations, stocks inventory, receiving, distribution, and delivery to project sites.
- Preferably bilingual (English & Korean/Chinese Language)

Electrical Maintenance Supervisor
(1 position) $5.55 per hour
- Must have 3 years experience in supervising electrical maintenance of the building.
- Monitors the repairs, safety measures, housekeeping and waste management of residential units.
- Can handle tenants' requests related to units being rented.
- Familiar with maintenance tools, equipment, and hardware materials for repairs.
- Preferably bilingual (English & Korean/Chinese Language)

Interested applicants may send resume to hongeei@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

CHONG'S CORPORATION

Job Vacancy Announcement

Four (4) TECHNICIANS-AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION
- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other Requirements:
- Minimum 10-year work experience required
- EPA Section 608 & R-410A Certifications required
- Maintenance Technician & Electrical Safety Course in Accordance with 29CFR 1910 Standard Certification required
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MISA ENTERPRISES, INC.

ASSISTANT MANAGER (1): Be able to assist the General Manager in the supervision of the business establishment such as: Management of financial books, rental client agreement, building maintenance such as answering tenants' complain & resolve problems. Confer with manager to review financial statements, activity reports and other performance data to determine areas needing cost reduction and improvement. Allocate funds; authorize expenditures necessary for building maintenance. Delegate authority and assign responsibilities to designate personnel for building maintenance, be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial and operational status. Other related duties as Assistant Manager.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. No phone calls.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yano Enterprises, Inc.

General Maintenance (2): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Chief Cook (1): Must be experienced in supervising and coordinating orders, operations and other cooks. Must be able to inspect and standardize raw & cooked food as well as the presentation of dishes. Be able to develop innovative recipes & menus of Japanese cuisine which take in factors such as seasonal availability of ingredients & customer orientation & pax.

Cook (1): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant I Garapan, Hotel Street. No phone calls.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR (UNGRADED)

Opening Date: November 26, 2012 **Closing Date: December 12, 2012**

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: $58,000 per annum

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and **submit a cover letter together with the NMHC Employment Application Form AND required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.**

NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2012, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than Wednesday, December 12, 2012, to the Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to admin@nmhc.gov.mp . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

W-A-ZIT © 2012 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Thunder edge Clippers in overtime, 117-11

OKLAHOMACITY (AP)—Kendrick Perkins challenged his Oklahoma City Thunder teammates before a showdown of division leaders with the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night.

The Thunder had lost their first two games this season against other top teams in the Western Conference, and Perkins wanted that trend to stop immediately.

It wasn't easy, but Oklahoma City got the job done.

Kevin Durant scored 35 points, Russell Westbrook added 23 and Oklahoma City's All-Star tandem scored all of the Thunder's points in overtime in a 117-111 victory over the Clippers.

"It felt good to finally get one of those wins, and we can move on now," Durant said.

Westbrook connected on a 3-pointer from the left wing to open the scoring in overtime, and Durant rattled one in from about the same spot two possessions later for a 108-104 advantage.

Westbrook then answered DeAndre Jordan's three-point play with a baseline jumper, and Oklahoma City was able to close it out from the foul line.

"This is a good win for us, especially against a team like that, that had some success lately," said Thabo Sefolosha, who hounded Clippers All-Star Chris Paul much of the game.

Blake Griffin led Los Angeles with 23 points and Jamal Crawford scored 20 for the Clippers, who had a six-game winning streak snapped after entering the game tied for the best record in the West.

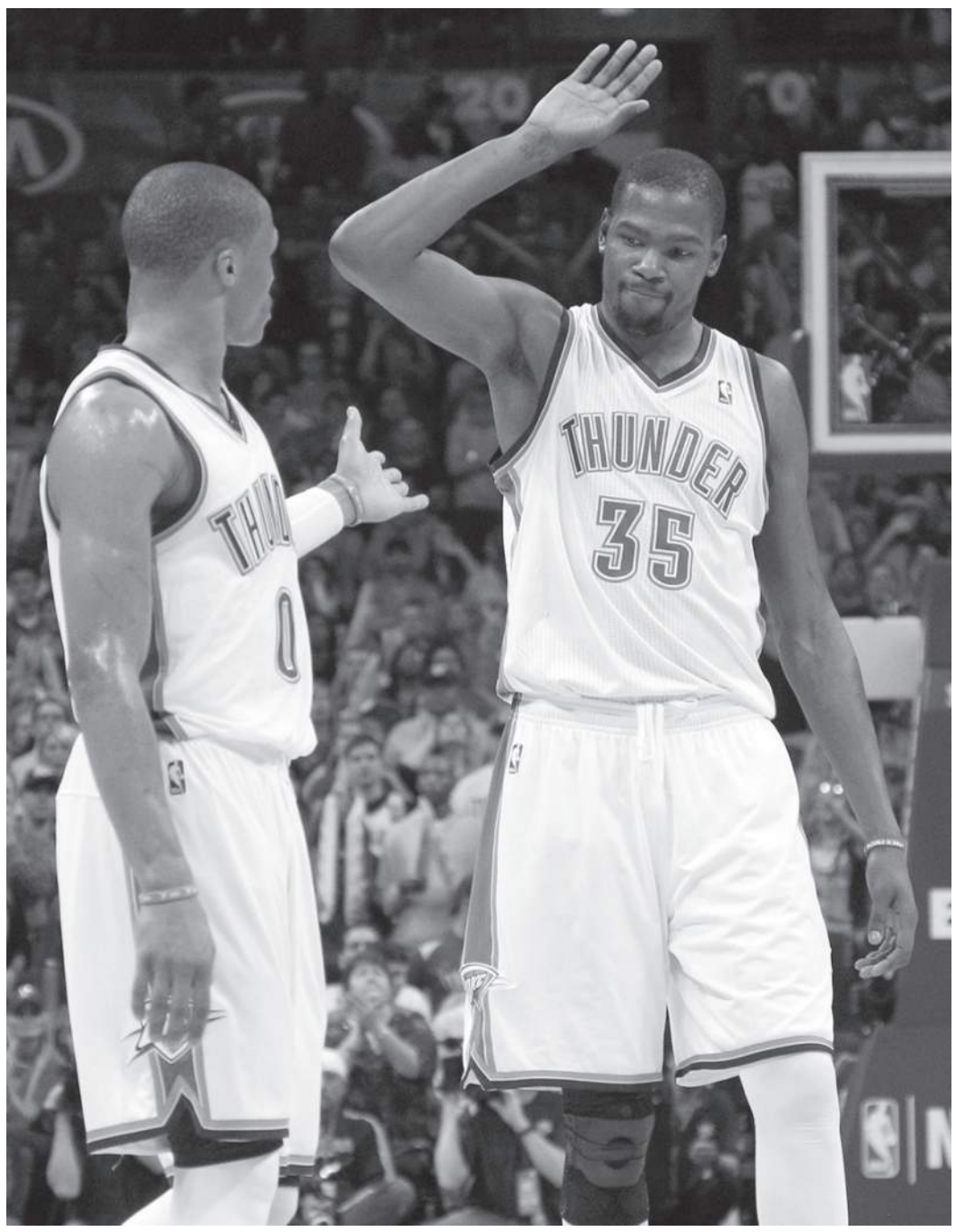
After trailing for the previous 44 minutes, the Clippers finally pulled even at 102 when Matt Barnes drove for a layup with 36 seconds left in regulation. Griffin denied Durant the ball on the Thunder's ensuing possession, and Westbrook came up empty on a drive to the basket.

Paul then dribbled out the rest of the clock before missing a turnaround jumper from the left elbow as the horn sounded.

"I think the frustrating part is we had an opportunity to win and, regardless of what anybody says, it's going to be hard for us to win a game when I play that bad," said Paul, who missed 12 of 14 shots and ended up with nine points and nine assists.

"It's tough because you work so hard but there's going to be nights like that."

Los Angeles had been tied with Memphis for the West's best record at the start of the day but dropped behind Oklahoma City and San Antonio with the loss. The Clippers were trying to win at least seven games in a row for only the sixth time in franchise history, and the first time since 1991.



AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) slaps hands with guard Russell Westbrook during overtime of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers in Oklahoma City, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2012.

"We fought the whole game and Chris got a great look. We're going to live and die on that shot," Jordan said. "We fought but we definitely made some mistakes tonight. They made more plays than we did down the stretch."

Matt Barnes scored 19 points while replacing starting forward Caron Butler in the Clippers' lineup. Butler missed the game with a strained right shoulder sustained Monday night in a win at San Antonio.

Kevin Martin scored 20 points and Serge Ibaka chipped in 15 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City before fouling out in overtime. Hasheem Thabeet also matched his career high with 10 points off the bench.

The Clippers won three out of four against Oklahoma City in a sometimes testy series last season that included Griffin's memorable throwdown over Perkins in a Clippers win and Perkins' retaliation with a hard foul to Griffin's face as Oklahoma City won the rematch.

Barnes had a couple scuffles with Ibaka and Perkins but nothing quite as noteworthy.

The Clippers ended up with a 54-38 edge scoring in the paint and a 28-10 advantage in second-chance points. Oklahoma City made up for it by making 34 of 39 free throws, while L.A. was 24 for 33.

Durant was 19 for 21 at the line, with coach Vinny Del Negro telling official Kevin Fehr after one call: "He doesn't need any help scoring."

"Those guys are physical and (I was) just trying to fight through it. Just trying to get there, man," Durant said. "I think early on, me driving and me getting into the paint, I was a little hesitant in the second half because I was turning the ball over.

"But I just tried to keep going. My teammates told me to just keep being aggressive, and that's what I tried to do."

The Thunder pushed ahead with a string of eight straight made baskets in the first quarter, and the lead stretched to 26-16 after Westbrook's extra effort turned a potential turnover into a three-point play for Thabeet.

The Clippers finally got back within striking distance early in the fourth, with Thunder coach Scott Brooks yelling to Durant to get off the bench with Los Angeles back within 78-75.

With Durant back in, Oklahoma City responded with the next six points to stabilize momentarily before the Clippers' final charge.

Heat 113, Bucks 106, OT

In Miami, LeBron James had 28 points and 10 rebounds, Dwyane Wade also had 28 points and Miami scored the first six points of overtime on the way to beating Milwaukee.

Chris Bosh scored 24 points and grabbed 18 rebounds, his most in a Heat uniform. James also had eight assists, and Ray Allen scored 17 points for the Heat.

John Henson had 17 points and 18 rebounds for Milwaukee, and Brandon Jennings had 19 points.

Kings 113, Lakers 97

In Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton scored 23 points, Tyreke Evans had 18 and Sacramento beat lethargic Los Angeles to snap a five-game losing streak.

Jason Thompson added 13 points and 10 rebounds to help the Kings hand new Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni his first loss with the team. Los Angeles had won three straight.

Mavericks 114, Knicks 111

In Dallas, O.J. Mayo scored 10 of 27 points in the final 6 minutes of the third quarter when Dallas charged ahead, and the Mavericks held off New York.

Vince Carter had 25 points, including a floater with 6 minutes left that made it 102-90.

The Knicks then had a 21-10 spurt, getting to 112-111 on Jason Kidd's two free throws with 1:15 left. Carmelo Anthony, who had 23 points, was short on a potential go-ahead jumper with 4 seconds left.

Nuggets 101, Timberwolves 94

In Minneapolis, Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points, and Andre Iguodala had 18 points and nine rebounds for Denver to spoil Kevin Love's surprise season debut for Minnesota.

Love had 34 points and 14 rebounds, helping the Wolves take a 17-point lead in the first half. But he didn't get a whole lot of help in his first game in nearly five weeks after breaking his right hand.

Pacers 115, Hornets 107, OT

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 33 of his career-high 37 points in the second half and overtime, and Roy Hibbert had a triple-double in Indiana's victory over New Orleans.

George made a team record nine 3-pointers, all after halftime. Hibbert had 10 points, 11 rebounds and a career-best 11 blocks, and David West and George Hill each scored 16 points for the Pacers.

Robin Lopez had 21 points and 13 rebounds for New Orleans, but he made just 3 of 17 field goals. No. 1 overall pick Anthony Davis missed his second consecutive game because of stress reaction in his left ankle.

Hawks 101, Wizards 100, OT

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver hit a long 3-pointer with 1.9 seconds remaining in overtime to lift Atlanta past Washington, extending the Wizards' franchise-worst start to 0-10.

Korver finished with 16 points, hitting his fifth 3-pointer after Kevin Seraphin's baseline jumper gave Washington a 100-98 lead. Josh Smith led Atlanta with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Seraphin led Washington with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

Bobcats 98, Raptors 97

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Ramon Sessions hit a 16-footer with 28 seconds left and Charlotte made a late defensive stand to beat Toronto for its fifth win in six games.

Toronto had four shots to win it, but two resulted in blocks and Andrea Bargnani's baseline jumper fell short as time expired.

Kemba Walker had 19 points and seven assists for the Bobcats, and Sessions and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist each had 14 points. Bargnani had 25 points for the Raptors.

Cavaliers 92, 76ers 83

In Cleveland, Jeremy Pargo scored a career-high 28 points filling in for the injured Kyrie Irving to help Cleveland end a six-game losing streak.

Irving is expected to miss a month because of a broken finger.

Dion Waiters added 16 points for Cleveland, Alonzo Gee added 14, and Anderson Varejao had 10 points and had 19 rebounds. Jason Richardson and Jrue Holiday each had 16 points for Philadelphia.

Spurs 112, Celtics 100

In Boston Tony Parker scored a season-high 26 points, Tim Duncan had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and reserve Tiago Splitter added a season-high 23 points for San Antonio.

Rajon Rondo had 22 points and extended his consecutive streak of double-digit assist games to 35 with 15. Paul Pierce had 19 points after spraining his ankle in a 20-point loss at Detroit on Sunday.

Rockets 93, Bulls 89

In Houston, James Harden scored 28 points, Patrick Patterson added 20 and Houston beat Chicago to snap a three-game losing streak.

Nate Robinson scored 21 points for Chicago, Luol Deng added 19 and Carlos Boozer had 13 points and 15 rebounds. The Bulls have lost three in a row for the first time in Tom Thibodeau's three seasons as coach.

Suns 114, Trail Blazers 87

In Phoenix, Marcin Gortat scored a season-high 22 points in only three quarters and Phoenix routed Portland to snap a three-game losing streak.

Markieff Morris added 19 points and seven rebounds. Damien Lillard had 24 points for Portland.

Warriors 102, Nets 93

In Oakland, California, Klay Thompson made two 3-pointers and scored 10 of his 23 points during a pivotal run late in the third quarter, and Golden State held on to beat Brooklyn.

David Lee added 20 points, 13 rebounds and six assists, and Stephen Curry had 25 points for Golden State.

Brook Lopez scored 22 points for the Nets.

Magic 90, Pistons 74

In Orlando, Florida, Andrew Nicholson scored 15 points, Glen Davis had 11 points and 14 rebounds, and Orlando opened the third quarter with a 21-0 run.

Greg Monroe scored 19 points for Detroit. The Pistons were 28 of 85 from the field.

‘Sir Jack’ the toast of basketball after 138 pts

By LUKE MEREDITH
AP SPORTS WRITER

How did Grinnell’s Jack Taylor wind up with 138 points in a game?

Well, he did miss 56 shots, more than he made. And he didn’t play for four minutes.

Otherwise he would have scored even more.

As it was, Taylor shattered the NCAA scoring record by 25 points Tuesday night in the Pioneers’ 179-104 victory over Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Taylor hoisted a mind-boggling 108 shots, one every 20 seconds. Layups, fadeaways and 3-pointers (27 of those) were all working in a display that had the NBA’s basketball royalty buzzing a day later, from Kobe Bryant and Kevin Durant to Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James.

“It’s like a video game,” Anthony said. “How can you shoot 108 times?”

“It’s unbelievable, honestly,” James said. “There’s two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid, I want to see him, too. Sir Jack.”

Wilt Chamberlain’s record of 100 points scored in 1962 still stands as the NBA mark. Taylor was the third player in NCAA basketball with at least 100 points, but his performance was the most prolific.

Taylor himself was still trying to catch his breath Wednesday.

“Honestly, it’s still not settling in. It was hard to sleep,” Taylor told The Associated Press after appearing on “Good Morning America” and the “Today” show.

Understandably so. Taylor is just a 5-foot-10, 170-pound sophomore from Black River Falls, Wis. How did he score more points than anyone in college history?

Well, he had 58 at halftime. And then he scored 30 more in the first nine minutes of the second half, draining seven straight 3s at one point.

The Division III record was the first to fall, as Taylor reached 91 points on a 25-footer from the left wing with 11:14 to go. He cracked 100 on a layup less than three minutes later, and with 4:42 to go he drained yet another 3 to pass the NCAA record of 113 set by Rio Grande’s Bevo Francis against Hillsdale in 1954.

In 1953, Francis had 116 against Ashland Junior College but Frank Selvy is the only other player to reach triple figures, scoring 100 points for Division I Furman against Newberry in 1954. The previous Grinnell record was 89 by Griffin Lentsch last Nov. 19 against Principia.

Taylor made 27 of his 71 3-point attempts and was 52 of 108 overall. He had a hot hand, sure, but he plays in a system designed to reward high-volume shooting.

AP

In this photo taken, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2012, and provided by Grinnell College, Grinnell’s Jack Taylor (3) goes to the basket in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Grinnell’s goal is to shoot within 12 seconds of getting the ball, something borrowed in part from the breakneck system Paul Westhead installed at Loyola Marymount in the 1980s. The 3 is the shot of choice—in fact, every player must shoot 100 3s every day in practice—and the four guys who don’t shoot crash the boards. The Pioneers also press relentlessly on defense, hoping to force a turnover or a quick shot so they can get back to scoring more points.

The style demands fresh legs, and the Pioneers typically substitute every 60 seconds or so.

“It’s just something completely different than you face any other time you play,” said Brian Fincham, the coach at Faith Baptist Bible, a school in nearby Ankeny, Iowa, with fewer than 300 students. “If they’ve got a little bit of ability on you, it’s tough to keep up.”

When coach Dave Arseneault landed at Grinnell 24 years ago, he inherited a program that went from 1965 until 1994 without a winning season. Because of their high academic standards and rural location 50 miles east of Des Moines, winning basketball had simply eluded the Pioneers for decades.

Arsenault wanted to make up for Grinnell’s lack of athleticism and size, and make the game more fun. The Pioneers have won four conference championships with the pour-it-on style but have yet to win an NCAA tournament game, raising questions about whether the emphasis on scoring at the expense of defense and patience doesn’t reflect traditional basketball strategy and sportsmanship.

“Maybe they’re right,” said David N. Arseneault, the co-head coach and the Arseneault’s son. “But the way I look at it is ... there’s no chance we would have been able to have even close to the amount of success we’ve had without this system.”

The Pioneers didn’t set out to have Taylor break any records Tuesday night. But after discovering Taylor had 58 points at halftime, they decided to go for it.

“A lot of people are saying it wasn’t the most team-oriented thing to do,” Taylor said. “But I wouldn’t have been able to do it without the encouragement and support from my teammates.”

Taylor didn’t leave the game until the closing moments with his team up 70. Arsenault said he thought about pulling Taylor earlier, but after watching him drain six straight 3s in a two-minute span, he couldn’t bear to pull the plug on something so special.

“My thought was `Hey, man, the kid’s got it going. I’m going to let him go,’” he said.

Fincham said he wasn’t offended by Taylor’s pursuit of the record. In fact, Fincham decided at halftime that it would try to get at least 50 points for his own player, David Larson, who finished with the quietest 70-point night in the history of basketball. He broke the school record of 47 and gave his teammates a reason to hold their heads high.

“Our students come for ministry,” Fincham said. “They don’t come for basketball, obviously.”

Tagliabue expects to rule on bounties by December

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue plans to complete all hearings in the NFL’s bounty probe of the Saints by Dec. 4 and make a ruling shortly after.

Such timing potentially could be disruptive for the Saints, who could lose starting defensive end Will Smith and linebacker Jonathan Vilma while trying to claw back into playoff contention.

In a document obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, Tagliabue directs the NFL to produce key witnesses in the New Orleans Saints’ cash-for-hits program, including former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and former defensive assistant Mike Cerullo.

Four players initially were suspended, but those punishments were vacated. Commissioner Roger Goodell re-issued the suspensions with some modifications, and when the players appealed again, Goodell appointed Tagliabue to oversee the new hearings. Vilma and Smith are still playing pending the outcomes of their appeals.

Smith said he was pleased with Tagliabue’s decision to hold the NFL responsible for producing witnesses who helped with the league’s investigation.

“The most important thing is that Gregg Williams and those other guys are going to have to testify and be cross-examined,” Smith said. “We’ll see if their story stays the same.”

Even as Tagliabue moves the process forward, a federal judge is still considering arguments by players that Tagliabue should be removed as arbitrator because he is biased in favor of the NFL. Based on the schedule laid out by Tagliabue, U.S. District Judge Ginger Berrigan could choose to rule as early as next week.

Smith said he was “not concerned” about the NFL’s timeline calling for a decision before the season ends, adding, “Whatever happens, happens. I don’t think I’ll be surprised.”

Vilma was not in the Saints’ locker room while it was open to reporters.

For now, only Williams, Cerullo, Vilma, Saints assistant head coach Joe Vitt, NFL chief security officer Jeff Miller are the only scheduled witnesses.

They are scheduled to appear in a series of hearings in Washington D.C. running from Tuesday through Dec. 4. That means Vilma and Smith likely will be available at least for the Saints’ next two games against San Francisco this Sunday and at Atlanta on Nov. 29. They could also play at the New York Giants on Dec. 9.

Vitt said after Wednesday’s practice that he did not know anything about Tagliabue’s schedule and declined comment, saying he’s focused on getting ready for the 49ers.

Saints linebacker Curtis Lofton said the Saints cannot afford to be distracted by the possibility that they will lose Vilma and Smith late in the season, but he did not diminish the importance of the two players to the Saints’ defense.

“These guys have been here for years and they’re kind of like the foundation of this team,” Lofton said. “So having those guys being able to play has mentally and physically been a boost to this defense and it’s great to have those guys out there.”

None of the players have served a game of their suspensions yet, though Vilma was barred from attending Saints training camp before Goodell’s initial rulings were vacated during Week 1 of the regular season.

Vilma initially was suspended the entire 2012 season and Smith for four games.

The two other players punished are former Saints: Cleveland linebacker Scott Fujita, who is now on injured reserve, and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove. Hargrove initially was suspended eight games, but that later was reduced to seven with credit given for the first five games he missed as a free agent. Fujita initially was suspended three games and that was later reduced to one game.

Facing resistance from the NFL Players Association and lawyers separately representing Vilma, who had argued that Goodell could not be objective, the commissioner removed himself as arbitrator in the bounty matter and appointed Tagliabue, his predecessor, in his place on Oct. 19.

Tagliabue noted in his most recent memo that other witnesses could be scheduled. Tagliabue also said he expects to decide by Monday whether to allow the Saints’ personnel file on Cerullo to be included as evidence.

Players have argued that Cerullo was the NFL’s primary source of information about the Saints’ performance pool. They’ve also argued that Cerullo’s credibility is in question because he was fired by the club after the 2009-10 season and he had accused the club of preventing him from getting a job on another NFL coaching staff.

The NFL investigation concluded that Saints players were rewarded for hits that knocked targeted opposing players out of games from 2009-2011. The league said there was evidence that the Saints placed bounties on star quarterbacks including Brett Favre, Kurt Warner and Aaron Rodgers.

Saints players and coaches have acknowledged they had a pool that paid rewards for big plays including interceptions, forced fumbles, sacks and big hits, similar to programs other teams have had across the league for generations. However, they say no one ever intended to injure an opposing player.

MASC Spearfishing Competition tomorrow

The Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club's 6th Annual Spearfishing Competition is set tomorrow, Nov. 24, from 6am to 4pm at Smiling Cove Marina.

Participants' registration and final meeting is today, Nov. 23, 5pm at Smiling Cove Marina. Registration fee is $35 per person that includes T-shirt, food, and drinks.

The prizes include top-of-the-line spearfishing gear and accessories, trophies for first prize and the biggest catch and cash prize. MASC said they will be needing volunteer boaters to assists them on the event. Boaters will receive fuel certificates and half of the catch of the team.

The 6th Annual Spearfishing Competition is sponsored by MARPAC, Shell Marianas, Saipan Fishermen's Association and its president Gene Weaver, Marianas Island Style, IT&E, Aquasmith, Ray Flores of FA'NU'I Guam, Fishing Tackle, John Gourley and Micronesian Environmental Services, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, senator-elect Ray Yumul, representative-elect Richard Seman, Ray Roberto and Department of Fish and Wildlife, DPS Boating Safety, Marianas Visitors Authority, and KKMP Radio Station. (***Walter Sutherland Cepeda)***

Last Training Clinic Beach V-ball tourney tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is holding its third and final "Four-on-Four" Training Clinic Beach Volleyball Tournament tomorrow morning at the Fiesta Resort & Spa beachside. Registration for the free event opens at 8:30am leading up to a 9am startup.

Competing divisions include U13 mixed boys and girls, U18 mixed junior men and women, and U25 mixed adult men and women.

The tourney starts out with pool play rounds, which will set the seeding for a double elimination series. Game point for all divisions is set at 15 with a cap of 21 and a "must-win-by-two" rule in effect.

The tournaments are bannered as training tourneys because they feature special ground rules to encourage players to utilize the skills they have been learning at the weekly practice sessions.

Special ground rules for the U13 division include awarding a bonus point to teams that score on a play using a bump or hand-set leading to a spike, in addition to receiving a second opportunity upon attempting an over hand serve.

A point must be credited on a play in order to receive the extra point and a second serve is only awarded if the first sails out of bounds or into the net.

The same special rules apply in the U18 division, aside from the second service opportunity.

Notably, all teams must also consist of at least one female player who must remain on the court at all times.

The free tournaments simply serve as a platform for the kids to put their skills to the test in a competitive setting. There will be one more slated for the end of November.

NMIVA's youth training practices are still ongoing and are open to anyone at no cost.

Practices are being held beachside at Fiesta Resort on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm, and on Saturday mornings from 8am to 10am.

The NMIVA is always in need of more volunteers.

Visit www.nmivolleyball.org for more information.

RBC fields 4 teams in Guam basketball festival

A contingent of 42 players from the Rollers Basketball Club hopped on a plane to Guam earlier his week to take part in the Agana Heights Fiesta Basketball Invitational at the Agana Heights Gymnasium.

The Rollers are fielding seven teams in total, however some players are suiting up for multiple squads. The Rollers are the lone CNMI representative in the tourney and will be taking on Guam's Tamuning Falcons, Dragons, and other teams in the 10U, U12, 14U-A, 14U-B, 16-A, 18U-A, and 18U-B divisions.

The 10U Rollers are comprised of Ichiro and Taka Borja, Kevin and Wendy Tang, John Paul Cruz, and Taiga Sato.

The 12U Rollers include Chevy Kate Alipio, Emmanuel Cobabas, Chioni Dela Cruz, John Malasarte, and Austin Pangelinan.

The 14U-A Rollers are bannered by C.J. Morales, John Carlo Cadua, Jedd Cudia, Warren Ellama, Mike Espinosa, Chris Jun Fidelino, and Kyle Rios.

The 14U-B group includes Christian Alipio, Mike Cenir, Jethro Cruz, E.J. Ermintanio, Isaiah Bordon, Ethan Kwon, Roi Venezuela, and N-Nes Siech.

Espinosa, Morales, Jeron Ano, Prince Factor, Irvyn Malonzo, J.P. Igelsias, and K.C. Pangelinan make up the 16A squad.

Cadua, David Bucayo, David Lin, Bruce and Elijah Li, Cheng Wei, Bill Tran, Joel Subang Jr., Winson Yu, and Keolani Rios represent the 18U-B team.

The 18U-A group includes Ano, Factor, Allen Gao, Malonzo, Iglesias, and K.C. Pangelinan.

Coach Hoe Diaz, his wife Verna Babauta, assistant coach Fred Litulumar, Rose Rios, Yoko Borja, and Zlaudia Pang are accompanying the group.

In addition, Litulumar will also be reuniting with some former Rollers now residing on Guam to compete in the 25A adult division. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

XGA November Ace set tomorrow

The X-clusive Golfers Association is holding its November Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow at the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club. Show time is set for noon with a 1pm tee off.

After this weekend's event, members still vying for a bid to compete in the finale Ace of Aces Tournament will have just one more chance to do so.

Last month newcomer, Ernest Sablan qualified as the group's October ace winner and joined defending champions and January ace J.J. Cabrera, February's Mike Sablan, March's Kisoo Kim, April's Yoon Jae Tuk, May's An Hun Jin, June's Park Hong, July's Luis Cepeda, August's John Cepeda, and September's Carl Hocog.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and, in contrast to its name, the club is open to the public and anyone is welcome can join, however registration begins at the turn of the calendar year as the group's January event is coupled as both the beginning and end of the season. The Ace of Ace champion of this year by tradition is also hailed as the January Ace of the new season.

Newcomers are required to pay a $50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform ($25/polo shirt); membership renewal for returning members is only $40.

On the day of events, players are also required to foot a green fee along with an added modest charge that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

For more information, contact XGA secretary J.J. Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

COOL

From Page 32

secure the win. Rachel Abrams and Madeleine Alegre also finished in twin digits, as they recorded 10 markers apiece with the former drilling the insurance basket in the end.

Cool Kids Only, which was undefeated going into the finals to earn a twice-to-beat advantage in the title duel, was forced to play Game 2 after Ball So Hard escaped with a 30-29 win in Game 1.

Actually, Ball So Hard almost lost the championship right away in the first game, as it had only two players at the playing venue with only a few minutes left before the forfeit time elapsed. Lily Williams then made it just in time to join Kaylani Lebria and Jack Aranda.

The three-player Ball So Hard crew went on to take control of the first half of Game 1, as Cool Kids Only appeared so tired after warming up too much, while waiting for its foe to arrive. Lebria got her outside shots falling and scored 11 points in the first half to lift Ball So Hard to a 17-11 lead.

Cool Kids Only then tried to recover in the second half, but fell short after Jaymark De Guzman showed up in the final frame and together with Lebria and Williams, they canned clutch baskets in the homestretch. Lebria went on to top-scored for Ball so Hard in Game 1 with her 13 points, while Williams added 12.

However, in Game 2, the two Ball So Hard players were held to single digits, while Abrams and Alegre used their ceiling to pile up points and help Dela Rosa save Cool So Kids.

Game 1

Ball So Hard 30 – Lebria 13, Williams 12, De Guzman 5.

Cool Kids Only 29 – Dela Rosa 11, Abrams 7, Pagarao 6, Alegre 5.

Scoring by halves: 17-11, 30-29.

Game 2

Cool Kids Only 34 – Dela Rosa 12, Abrams 10, Alegre 10, Pagarao.

Ball So Hard 32 – De Guzman 11, Lebria 8, Aranda 7, Williams 6.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 34-32.

NMIFA

From Page 32

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: It all started when I was 8 years old. One of my cousins encouraged me and my brother to play soccer, so we joined our school's soccer games. I enjoyed my first few games, so I decided to join a club, the Tan Holdings FC, and then I moved to Shirley's FC.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I like to play football because it helps me stay mentally and physically fit. I also learn teamwork and sportsmanship, which can be applied not only during games, but also in our daily activities.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: Aside from getting a Golden Boot award and making it to the Best 9 in the girls U15 league, I had the privilege of representing the CNMI in an international tournament in Nanjing, China.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Join football and stay active to combat obesity.

*"Diana is made for this sport. Her skill level is higher compared to players in her age group. Her attitude on and off the court is also commendable, as she is a great role model to younger players and her teammates —**Diana's coach Angie Ito.***

SMITH

From Page 32

In the open division, Butch Sublemente won after submitting 47:13—the fourth best time in the field. Soledad Tenorio also completed the race under one hour with her 56:40 to place first in the women's open division.

Sendin's 44:04 topped the men's 30 to 39 age group, while Antonina Banes' 1:07:46 lead the women's field.

In the men's 40 to 49, Tyce Mister, who was runner-up in his age group last year, this time finished first with a time of 46:06, while Shelly Scott prevailed in the women's division after posting 1:22:44.

Veteran runner Steve Pixley was in his usual form and reigned supreme in the 50-and-above age group after tallying 48:02, while Lyn Tenorio took the women's top honors with her 1:14:03.

The U17 age group had repeat winners in Michael Mancao and Gabrielle Race with the latter eclipsing her 2011 winning time (59:14) after posting 55:51 in yesterday's race. Mancao timed in at 45:43, more than a minute slower than his last year's record of 44:10.

In the U12 division, siblings Alan and Alyssa Stafford won after posting 53:28 and 1:26:24, respectively.

Meanwhile, Chang Wang Jang did his traditional barefoot running in yesterday's race and had company in another brave barefoot runner, 69-year-old Daniel Han.

SBC

From Page 32

ry, 21-18, 21-18.

The AB class was the lone women's doubles game that went the distance with Malasarte and Lee So Young edging Loida Ito and Cristy Villaflor, 21-13, 14-21, 21-17.

In the mixed doubles, SBC prevailed in the first two matches with Oh Im Bog and Sook defeating Celso Agui and Emily Vargas in the BB level, 21-14, 21-14, and Jexter Caranto and Alma Ortega beating Agui and Tolentino in the BC division, 21-18, 21-18.

The mixed A match between the pairs of Glenn Bluutjens and Malasarte and Andrew Galvez and Ito also went to three games with the former winning, 21-11, 16-21, 21-16. Galvez then bounced back in the AB level, as he and Curate swept Sam Jones and Lee So Young, 21-17, 21-18 but TAGA failed to make it two in a row, as Johann Noetzel and Rose Lazaro bowed to SBC's Son Jae Ok and Julie Lee in the C division, 5-21, 17-21.

Then in the lone men's double match, Agui finally won in Week 3, as he and A.J. Ortega survived Kevin and Joel Ortega in the C division, 21-18, 17-21,21-16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	8	2	.800	–
Brooklyn	6	4	.600	2
Philadelphia	7	5	.583	2
Boston	6	6	.500	3
Toronto	3	9	.250	6

Southeast Division

Miami	9	3	.750	–
Charlotte	6	4	.600	2
Atlanta	6	4	.600	2
Orlando	4	7	.364	4 1/2
Washington	0	10	.000	8

Central Division

Milwaukee	6	4	.600	–
Indiana	6	7	.462	1 1/2
Chicago	5	6	.455	1 1/2
Cleveland	3	8	.273	3 1/2
Detroit	2	10	.167	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	8	2	.800	–
San Antonio	9	3	.750	–
Dallas	7	6	.538	2 1/2
Houston	5	7	.417	4
New Orleans	3	7	.300	5

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	9	3	.750	–
Denver	6	6	.500	3
Utah	6	6	.500	3
Minnesota	5	5	.500	3
Portland	5	6	.455	3 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	8	3	.727	–
Golden State	7	5	.583	1 1/2
L.A. Lakers	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Phoenix	5	7	.417	3 1/2
Sacramento	3	8	.273	5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 NMIFA Youth Fall Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire and Tan Holdings FC U8 players exchange hi-fives after their game in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall Festival last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

U6 players enjoy a running drill.

Paire and Tan Holdings U10 players in action.

A Tan Holdings U6 player makes a throw-in.

Paire FC U12 players huddle after a match at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United coach Bruce Berline talks to his U8 players.

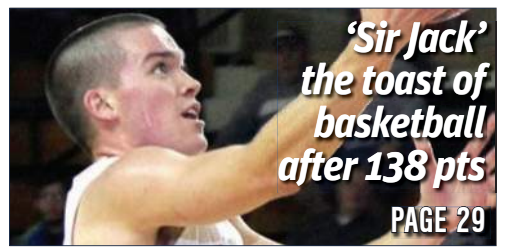
An MP United U10 player goes for a corner kick.

Matansa players and officials walk out of the field after completing their U12 games.

U6 players perform warm-up drills.

U6 players line up at the registration booth.

Saipan Tribune
Sports



Smith wins in Turkey Trot debut

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Finishers in yesterday's 29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run pose for a group photo at Mt. Tapochao, while Sean Smith, right, is a few steps away from completing the 4.2-mile race up to Saipan's highest peak.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fast-rising Saipan runner Sean Smith debuted in the 29th Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run and ruled yesterday's race to Mt. Tapochao.

Smith completed the 4.2-mile race run from Lower Base to the highest peak on the island in 44:04, leading the finishers in the annual event Northern Marianas Athletics holds every Thanksgiving Day.

Smith and 92 other runners headed out to the course a few minutes later than the 6:30am kick-off time, as rain fell while participants were waiting for the race to begin. When the rain stopped, the 26-year-old runner was in the first wave of participants to leave the starting line and then was without company on his way up to Capital Hill.

Smith then appeared out of the heavy fog covering Mt. Tapochao four minutes ahead of second overall finisher and fellow Turkey Trot first-timer Charlie Sendin.

Though it was his debut in one of NMA's signature events, Smith admitted he is used to running in high altitude and cold weather.

"The weather was fine for me and the course was a challenge, but I survived," said Smith, who won his fourth race in a row since September, as he also prevailed in the SIS Fun Run, Radar Run, and Banzai Run.

Smith won a turkey for being the top male finisher, while Amy Sletten took the honors in the women's division after clocking in at 49:44.

See SMITH on Page 30

Cool Kids Only gobbles up competition in 3-on-3 caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cool Kids Only survived Ball So Hard, winning the deciding Game 2, 34-32, in the championship round of the 2012 Kanoa Resort 3-on-3 Co-ed Basketball Tournament last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Erick Dela Rosa scored 12 points in the do-or-die match, including 6 of their last 8 points that helped Cool Kids Only

See COOL on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cool Kids Only's Erick Dela Rosa checks on the basket before making a shot against Ball So Hard's Jack Aranda during Game 1 of their title showdown in the Kanoa 3 on 3 caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

SBC still unbeaten in Traders tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defending champion Saipan Badminton Club is likely to get the top seeding in the playoff round of the 2012 Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after recording its third win last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

SBC crushed TAGA Badminton Club, 22-8, to remain undefeated in the five-club tournament and moved one win away from sweeping the round-robin elimination. The defending champion, which routed the Golden Racquets (35-25), 20-10, and Berks Blazers (45-45), 21-9, in Weeks 1 and 2, respectively, won eight of the its 10 matches against TAGA to improve to a field best 63-27 record (games won/games loss). TAGA remained at the cellar with a dismal 14-46 slate, nine wins behind fourth place Shirley's Badminton Club (23-37), and must win as many games as it can in its last two assignment to keep its semis chances alive. Only the Top 4 teams after round-robin play will make it to the next round of the annual tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Badminton Club's Hannah Choi is seen here eyeing a return during her and Sam Jones' doubles game against the Berks Blazers' Ferdie Arago and Lani Bartolome in Week 2 of the Traders Insurance tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

A near sweep in the women's doubles gave SBC the needed cushion against TAGA and the former went on to complete the demolition after going 4-for-5 in the mixed division.

The defending champion won three of the four women's doubles tiffs after only two games. Malou Malasarte and Hannah Choi recorded the first win for SBC after they downed Merlie Tolentino and Shirley Kim in the A division, 21-19, 21-19. Heo In Sook and Alma Ortega also made short work of Elna Curate and Tolentino in the B division, 21-17, 21-19, while Ortega partnered with Diane Francisco in recording another win via sweep against Kim and Lanie Santos in the BC catego-

See SBC on Page 30

NMIFA YOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Name: **Diana Maniacop**
Age Group: **U15**
Team: **Shirley's FC**
Position: **Striker**
Jersey No.: **#24**
Years of Playing Experience: **4 years**
Village: **Chalan Kiya**
School: **Hopwood Junior High School**
Grade: **7th**
Favorite Player or Team: **Chelsea**

See NMMIFA on Page 30